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# PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

**AT  
DEATH'S  
DOOR!**



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MILGROM





**A  
PETER  
PARKER  
PRIMER...**

1. THE BLACK CAT CAME BACK, AND WAS SPIDEY GLAD!

2. BUT SHE'D MADE DOCK AND THE OWL MAD--

3. --BY STEALING THIS BOMB THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD!

4. SO THE BAD GUYS FOUGHT... AND GOT BEAT BAD!

5. NOW THE BATTLE'S DONE, THE VILLAINS HAVE LOST...

6. BUT SPIDEY AND HIS LADY WILL SOON LEARN THE COST...

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS:

# AT DEATH'S DOOR!

UH, FELICIA,  
I'D LIKE TO GO  
ON KISSING YOU  
ALL DAY--

--BUT  
WE'VE  
GOT  
COMPANY!!!

BILL  
MANTLO  
SCRIPTER

AL  
MILGROM  
PENCILLER

JIM  
MOONEY  
INKER

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ALBERS  
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THE OWL  
AND THE  
OCTOPUS  
GANGS! THEY'VE  
BEEN SO BUSY  
FIGHTING  
EACH OTHER--



-- THAT THEY DIDN'T  
NOTICE THAT THEIR  
BOSSSES WERE BEATEN--  
AND THE BATTLE'S OVER!

STAY HERE,  
FELICIA, WHILE  
I CLUE 'EM IN!



DON'T YOU BOYS  
HAVE ANY ROMANCE  
IN YOU?

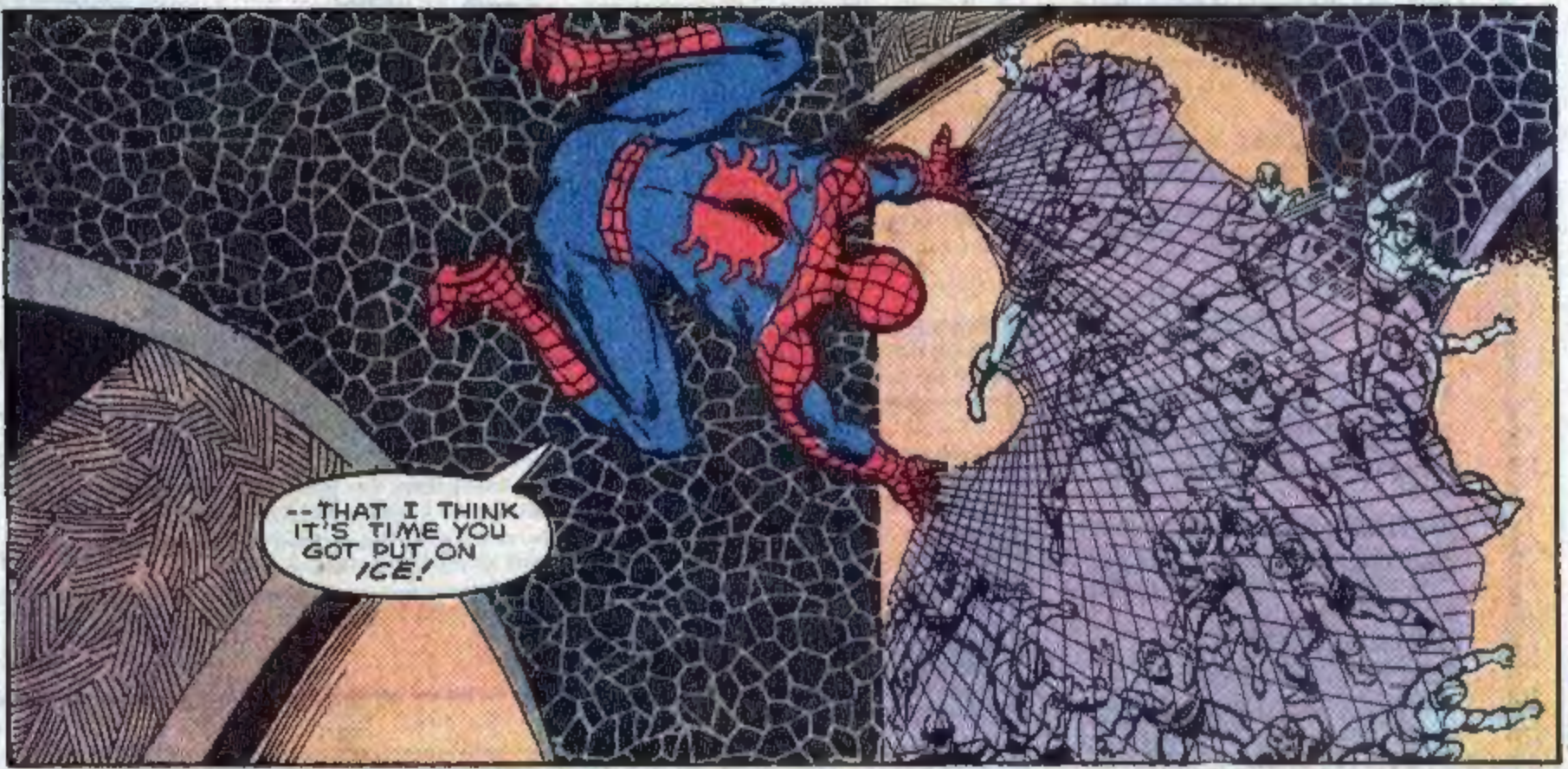


I MEAN, YOU'VE GOTTA BE  
AWFULLY CALLOUS TO BUST UP  
A SCENE LIKE THE CAT AND  
I WERE HAVING!

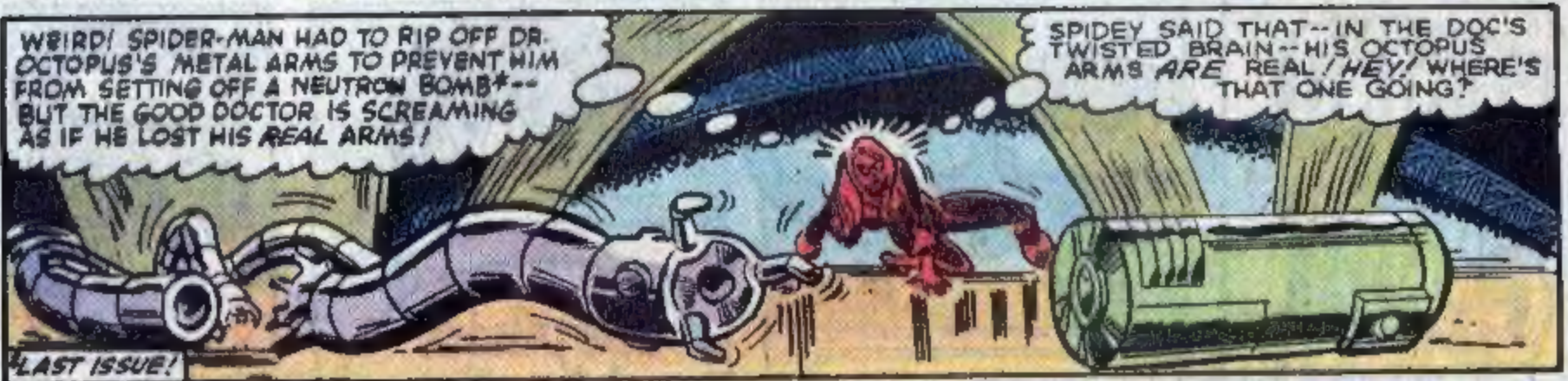


CALLOUS  
AND COLD!  
SO COLD,  
IN FACT--









WEIRD! SPIDER-MAN HAD TO RIP OFF DR. OCTOPUS'S METAL ARMS TO PREVENT HIM FROM SETTING OFF A NEUTRON BOMB!-- BUT THE GOOD DOCTOR IS SCREAMING AS IF HE LOST HIS REAL ARMS!

SPIDEY SAID THAT-- IN THE DOC'S TWISTED BRAIN-- HIS OCTOPUS ARMS ARE REAL! HEY! WHERE'S THAT ONE GOING?

LAST ISSUE!



TOWARDS THE NEUTRON BOMB ACTIVATOR! EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE DETACHED FROM HIM, DOCTOR OCTOPUS MUST BE ABLE TO CONTROL THEM MENTALLY!

WHICH MEANS HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED ALL OVER AGAIN!



**THRAK**

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, LITTLE GIRL!



MARSHALLING HIS RAIN-BECLOUDED THOUGHTS, DR. OCTOPUS ORDERS HIS DETACHED ARMS TO SEIZE FELICIA HARDY!



AND THEN... THE BOSS CAUGHT HER FOR US!

SP-SPIDEY!

HELP ME! I-I CAN'T MOVE!

KILL HER!

SHOOT HER DOWN!



FELICIA!!!



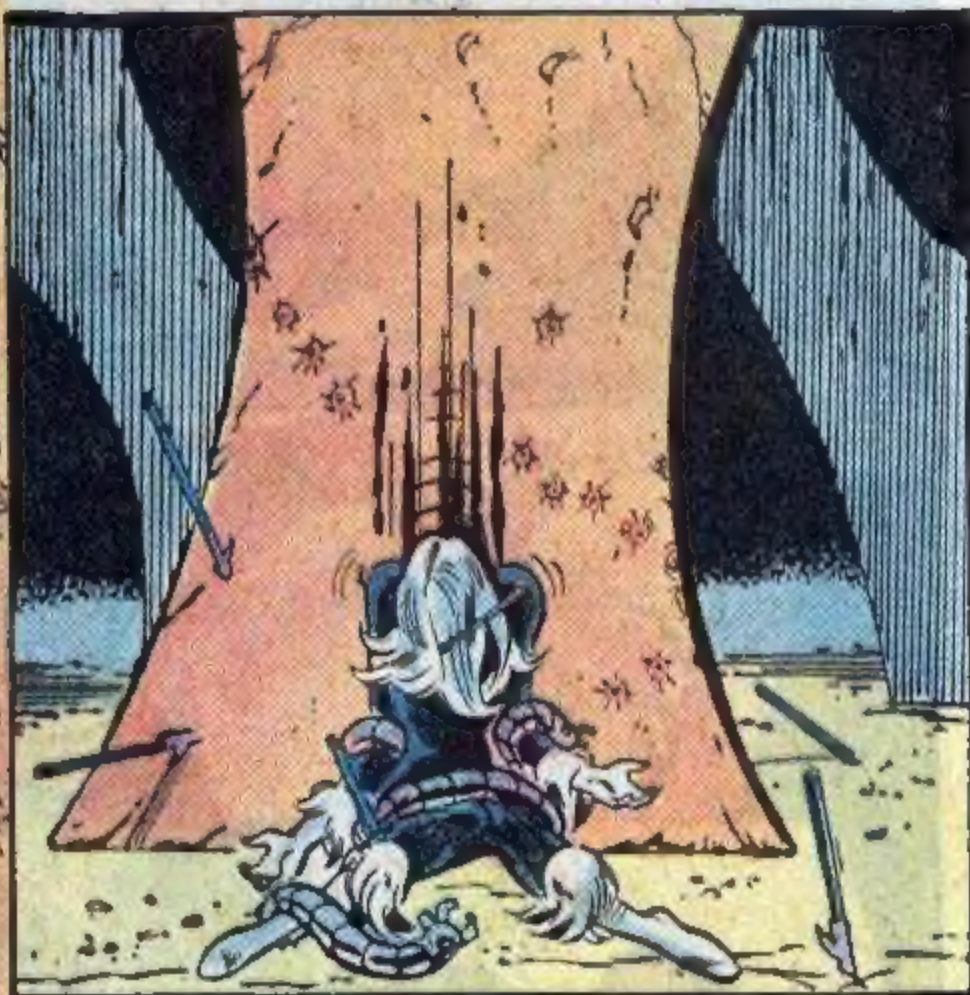
HER SEARING SCREAM REACHES SPIDER-MAN IN THE NEXT CHAMBER, RIPPING THROUGH HIM LIKE A JAGGED KNIFE...

...AND HE SEES...  
HE SEES!

OH,  
GEE!

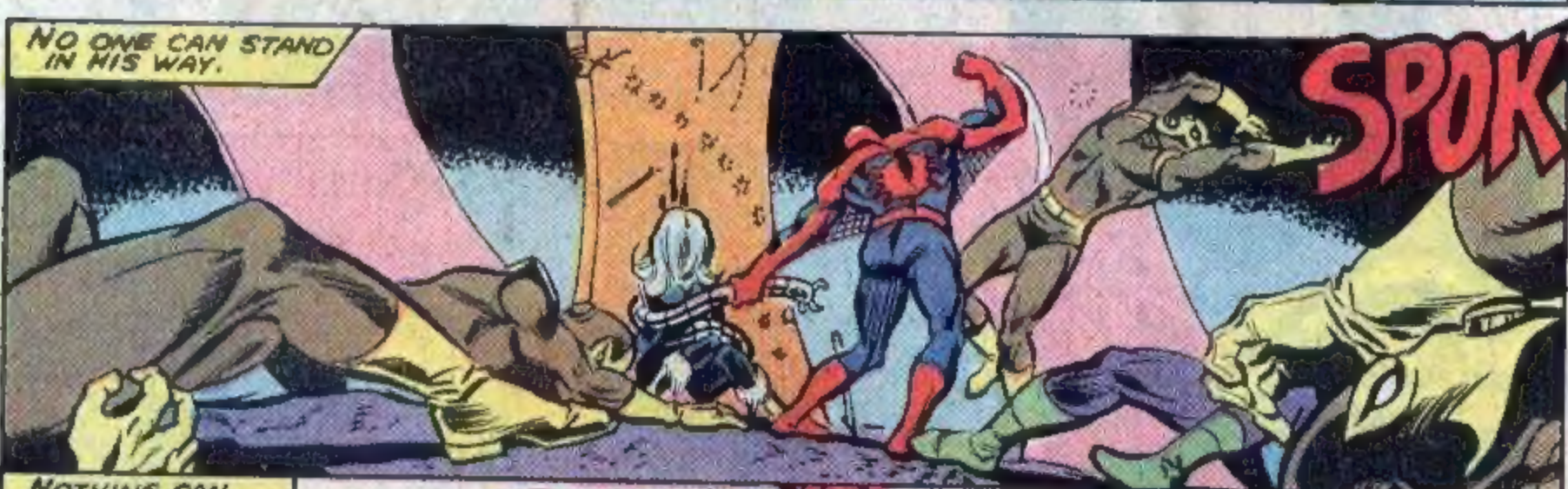
IS THIS  
THE P-PRICE  
I HAVE TO  
P-PAY...

FOR  
BEING  
G-GOOD?



NO!









SPIDER-MAN TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO THE BLACK CAT.

SHE'S BEEN SHOT AND STABBED!

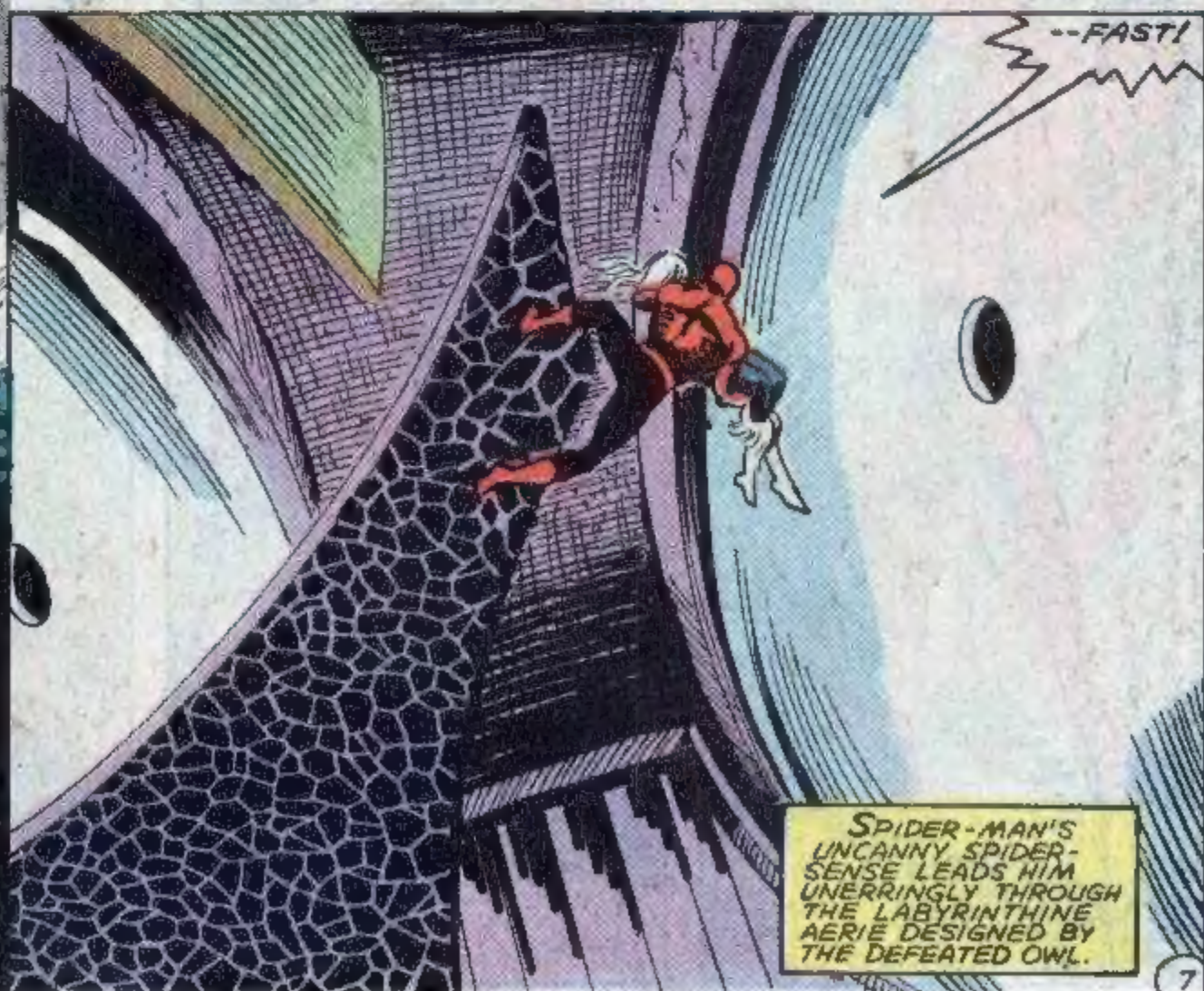
HARDLY ANY HEARTBEAT! PUPILS DILATING! BLOOD ALL OVER THE PLACE!



I'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF HERE AND TO A HOSPITAL--



--FAST!

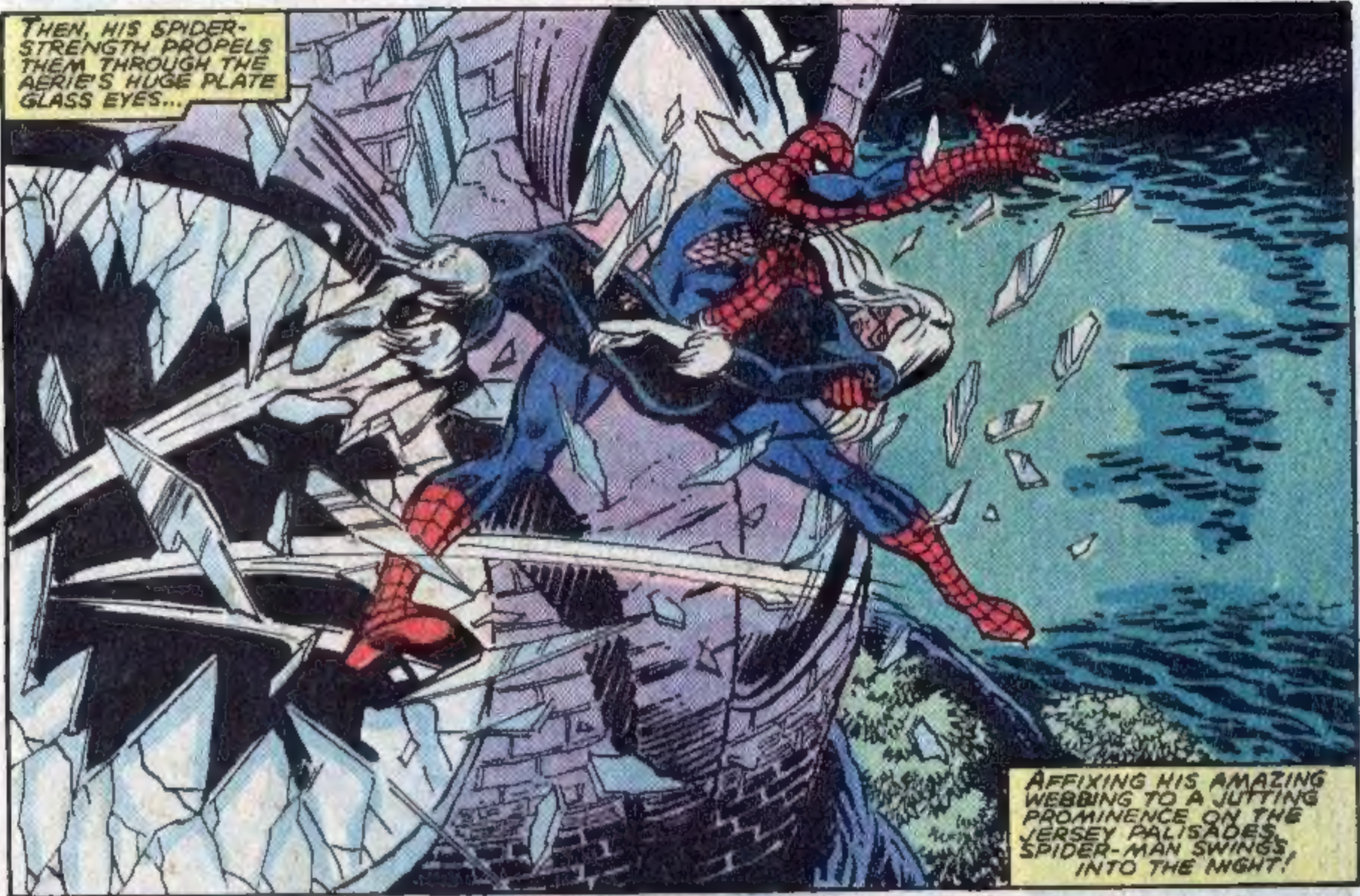


THAT THREAT TAKEN CARE OF...

SPIDER-MAN'S UNCANNY SPIDER-SENSE LEADS HIM UNERRINGLY THROUGH THE LABYRINTHINE AERIE DESIGNED BY THE DEFEATED OWL.



THEN, HIS SPIDER-STRENGTH PROPELS THEM THROUGH THE AERIE'S HUGE PLATE GLASS EYES...



AFFIXING HIS AMAZING WEBBING TO A JUTTING PROMINENCE ON THE JERSEY PALISADES, SPIDER-MAN SWINGS INTO THE NIGHT!



THE BIGGEST AND BEST HOSPITALS ARE ALL ACROSS THE RIVER!

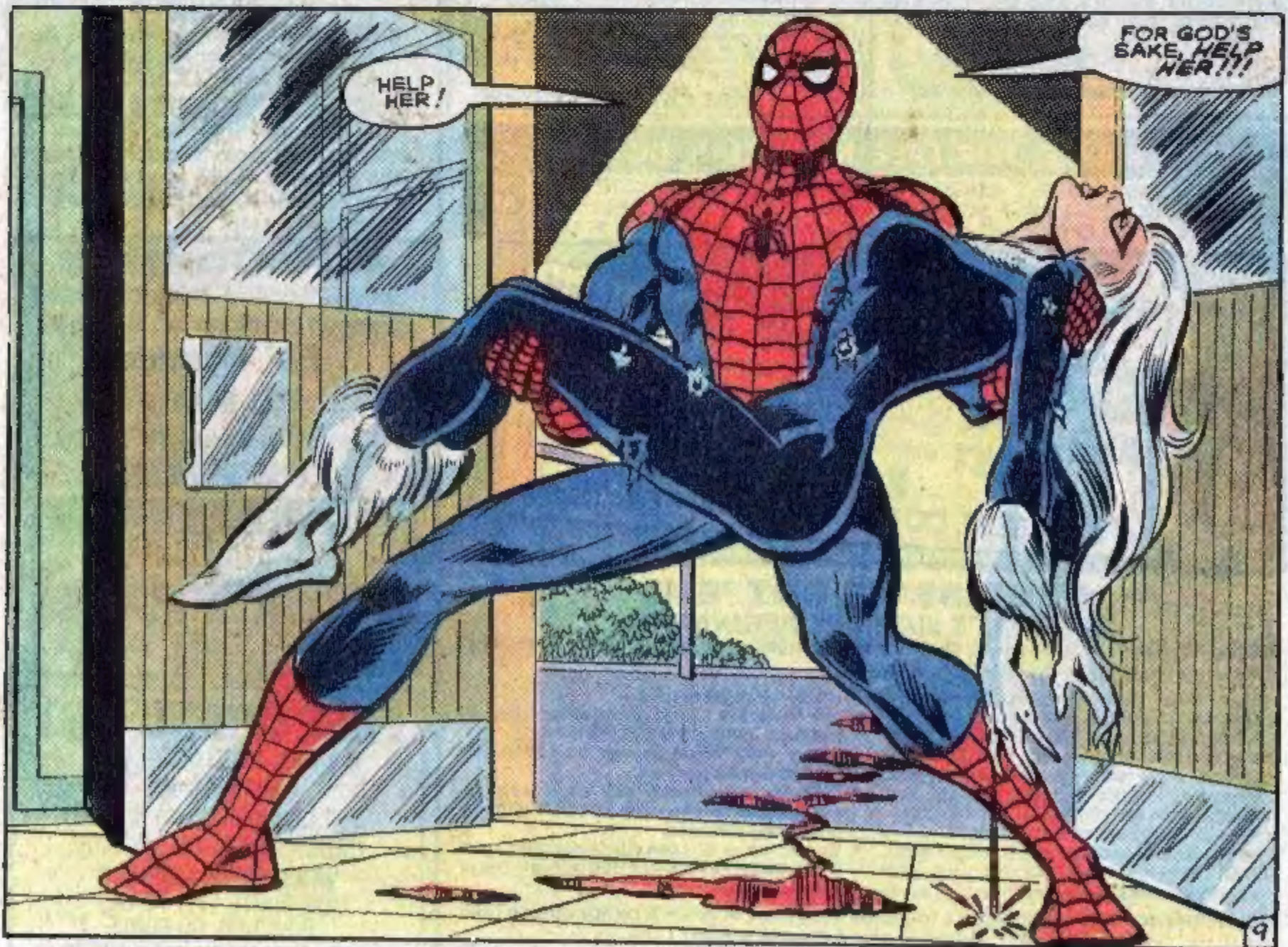
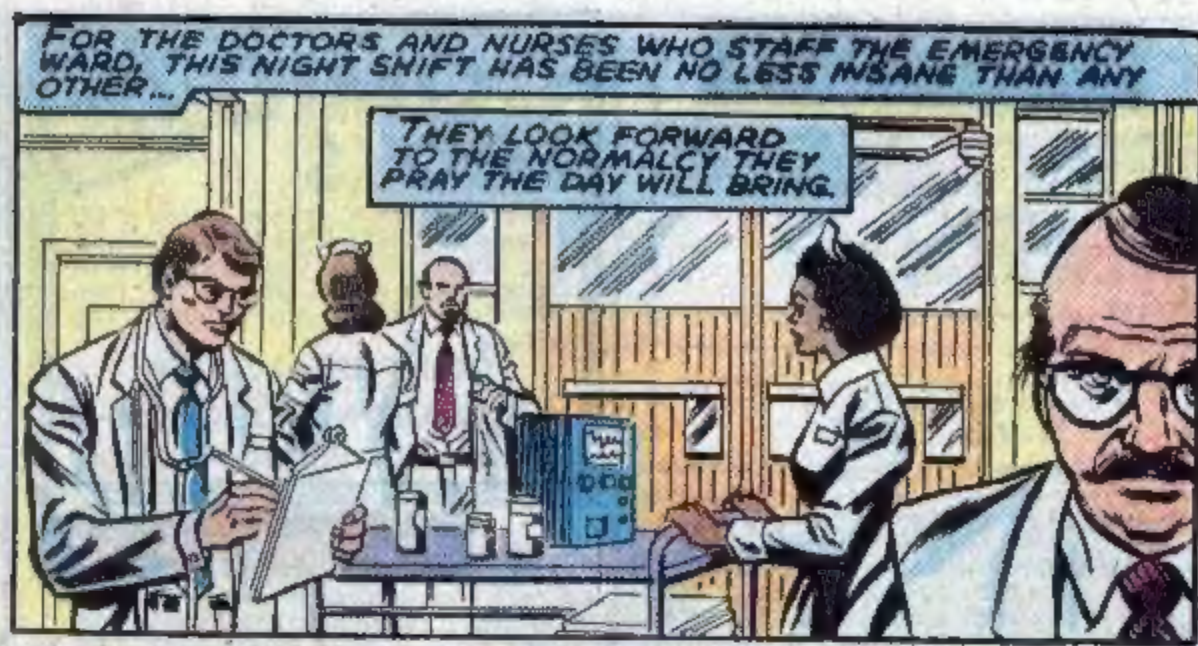


I'VE GOT TO GET THE CAT TO ONE OF THEM!

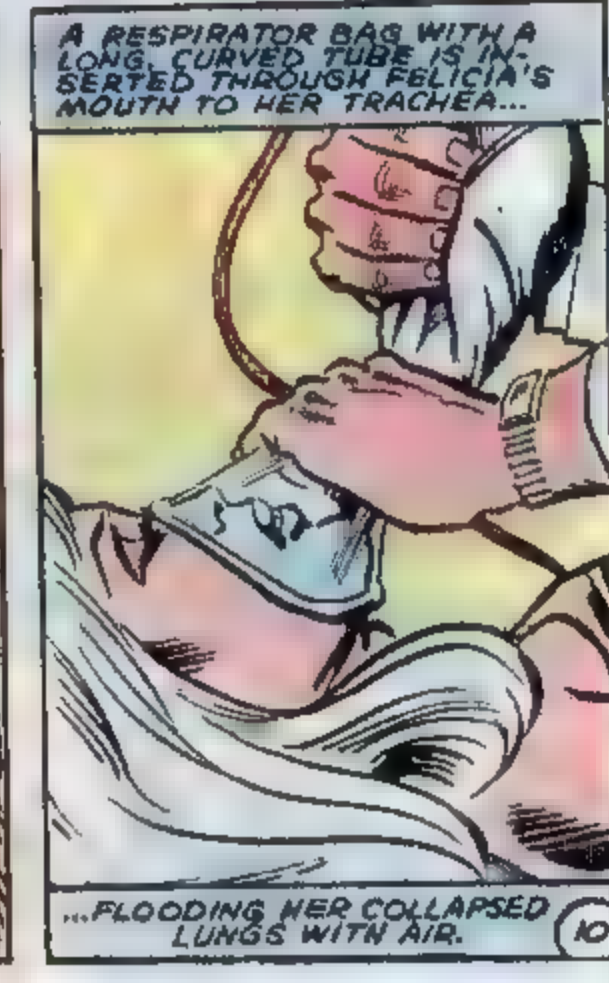
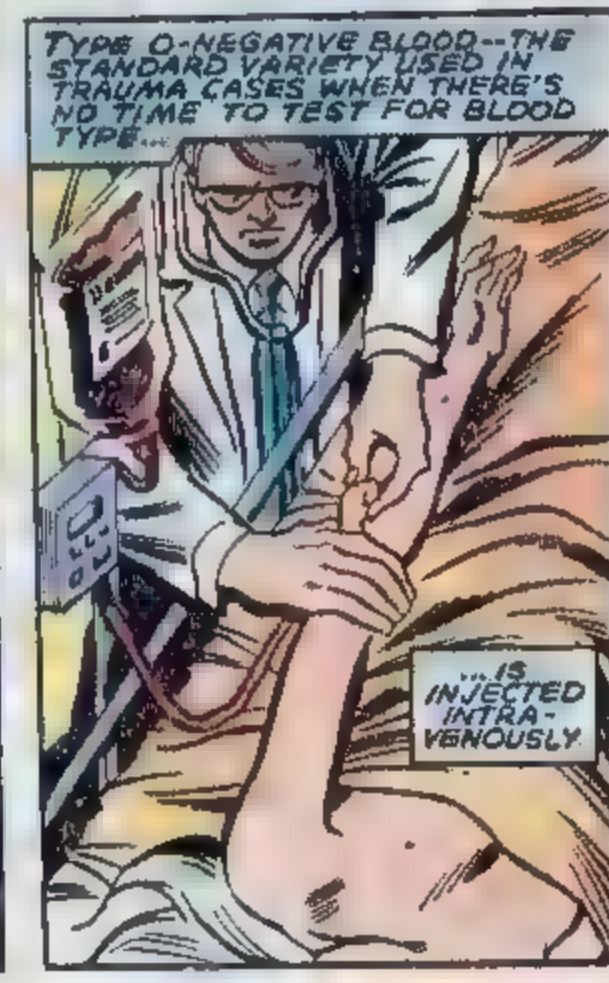
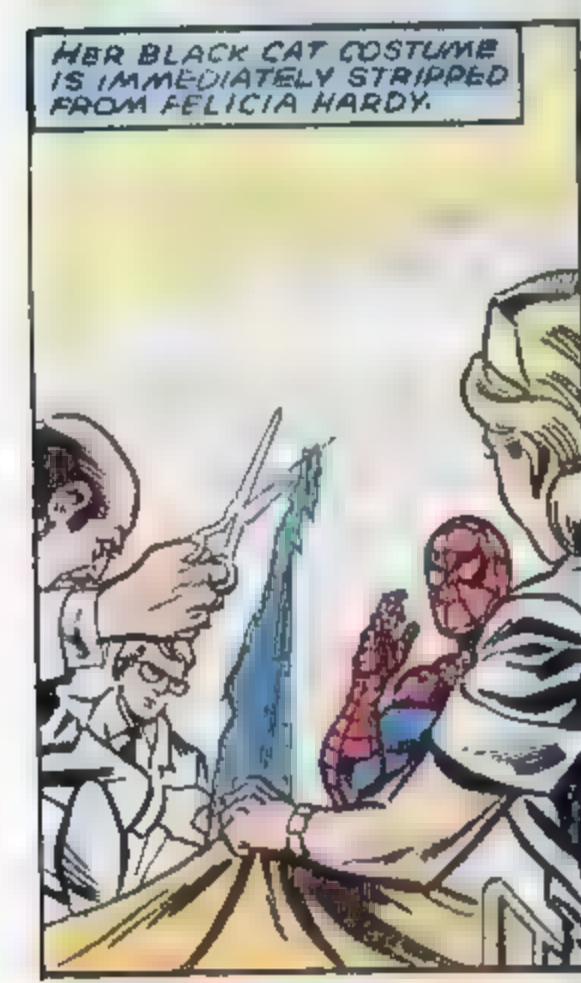
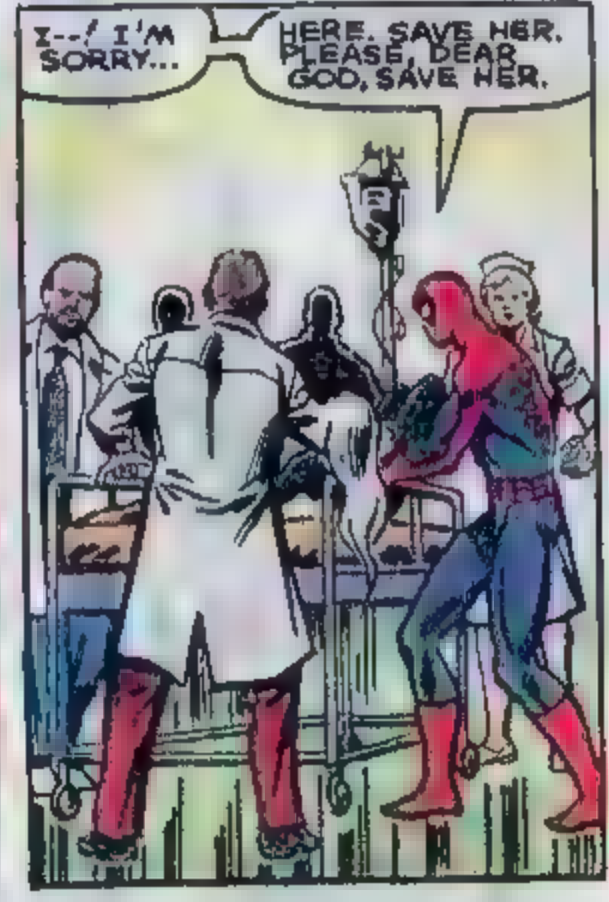
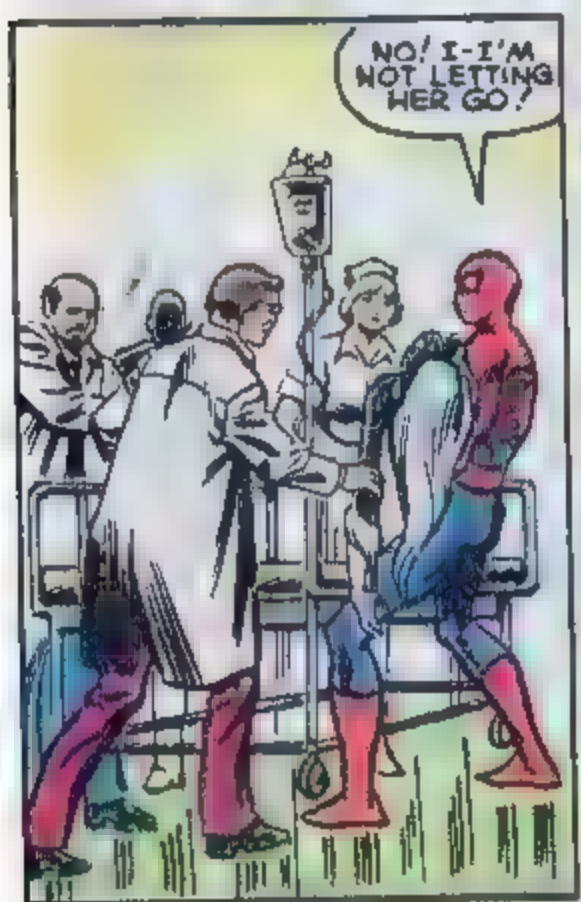
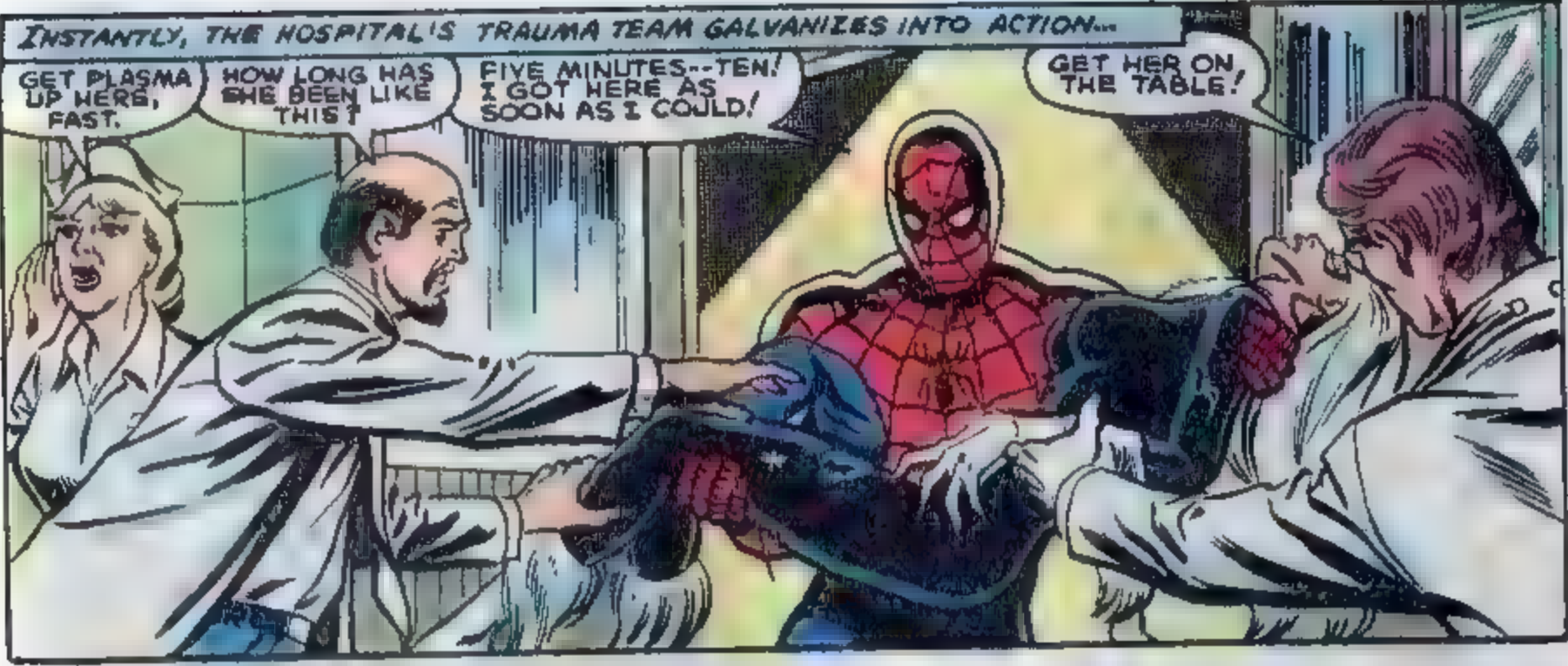


IT'S HER ONLY HOPE OF STAYING ALIVE!

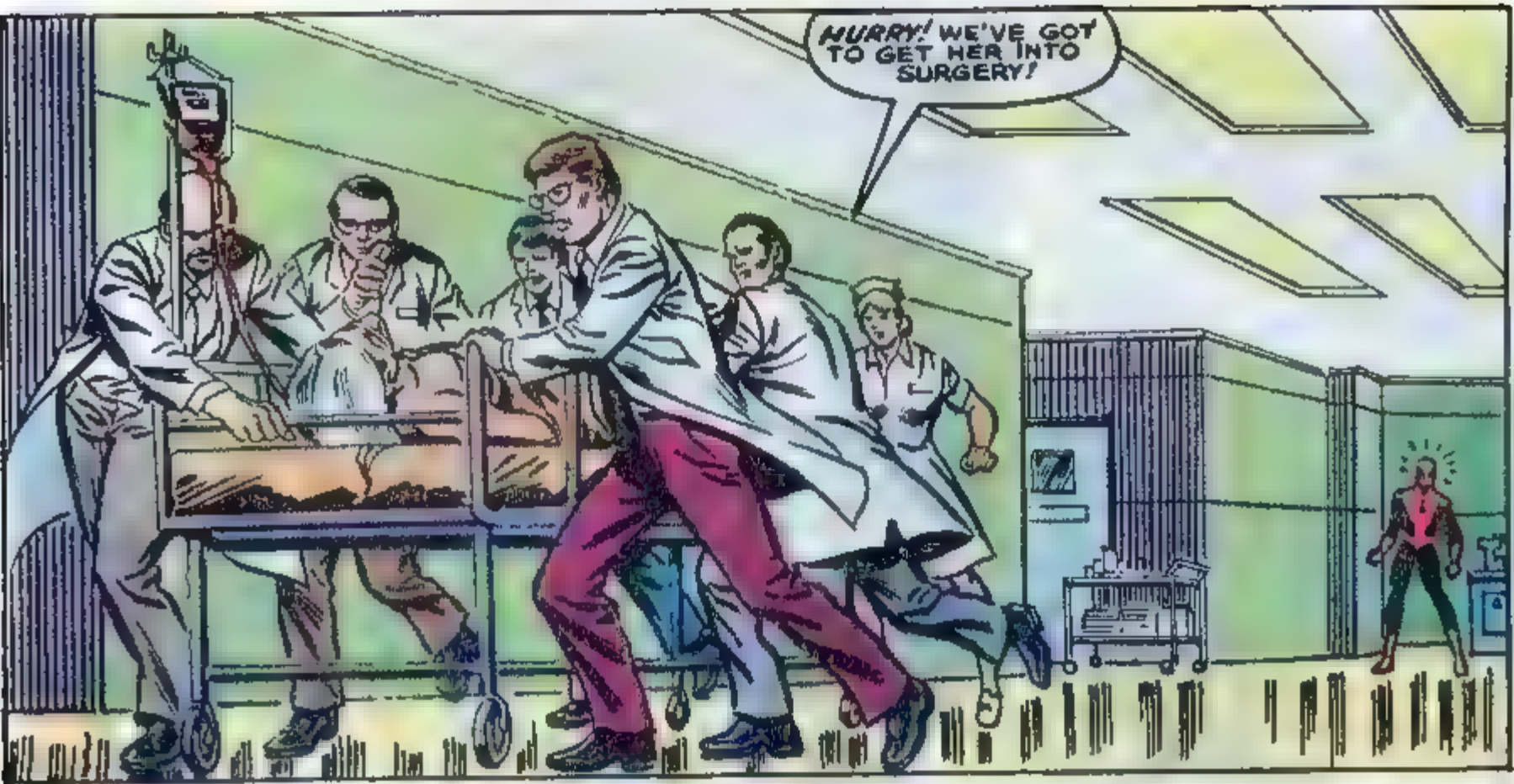




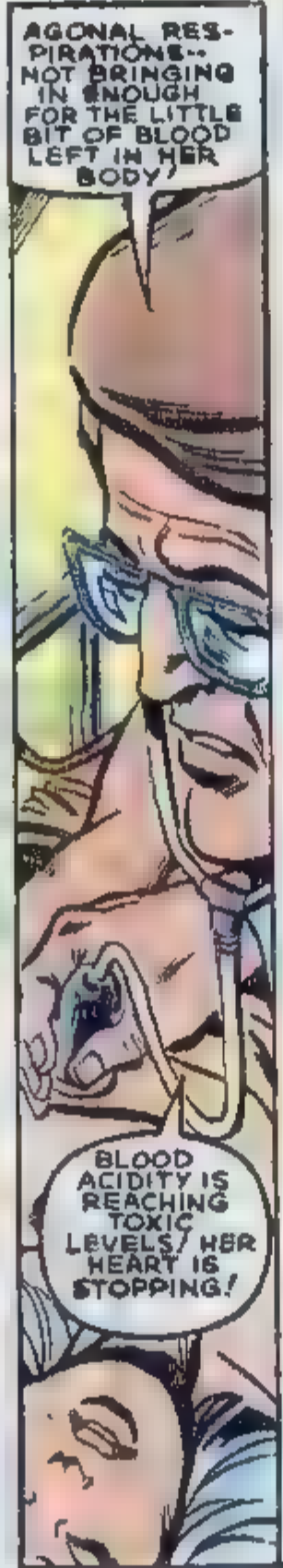
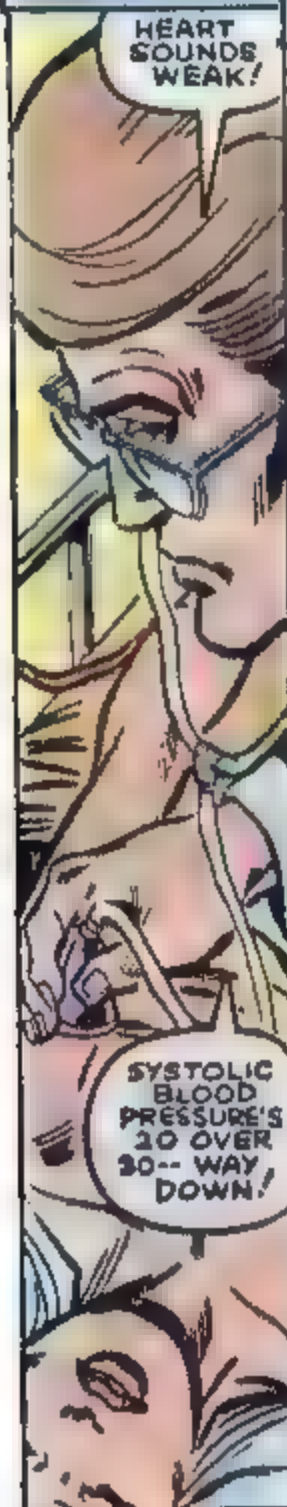




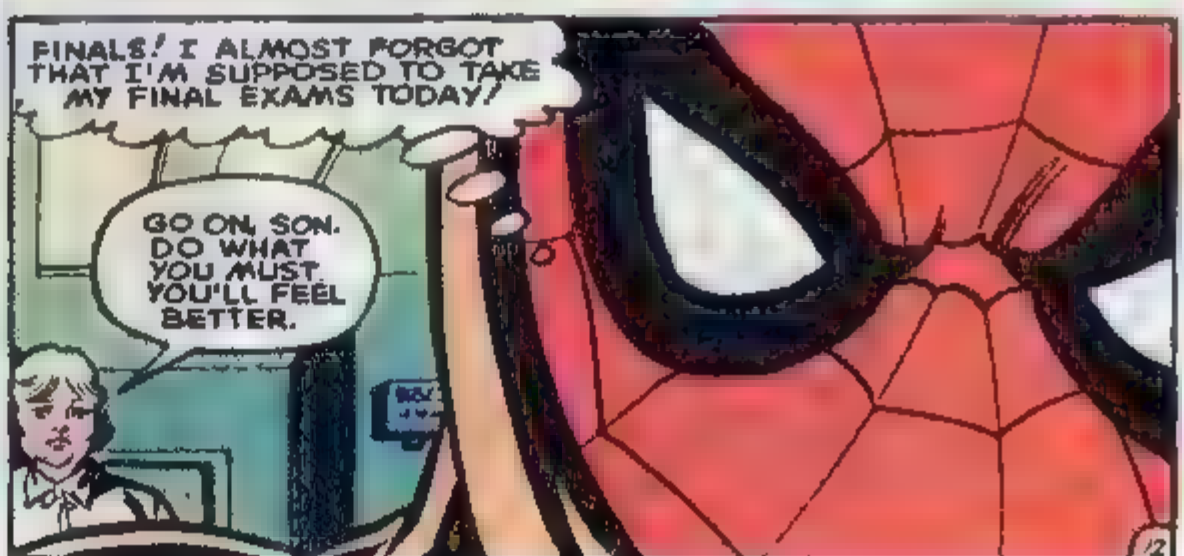
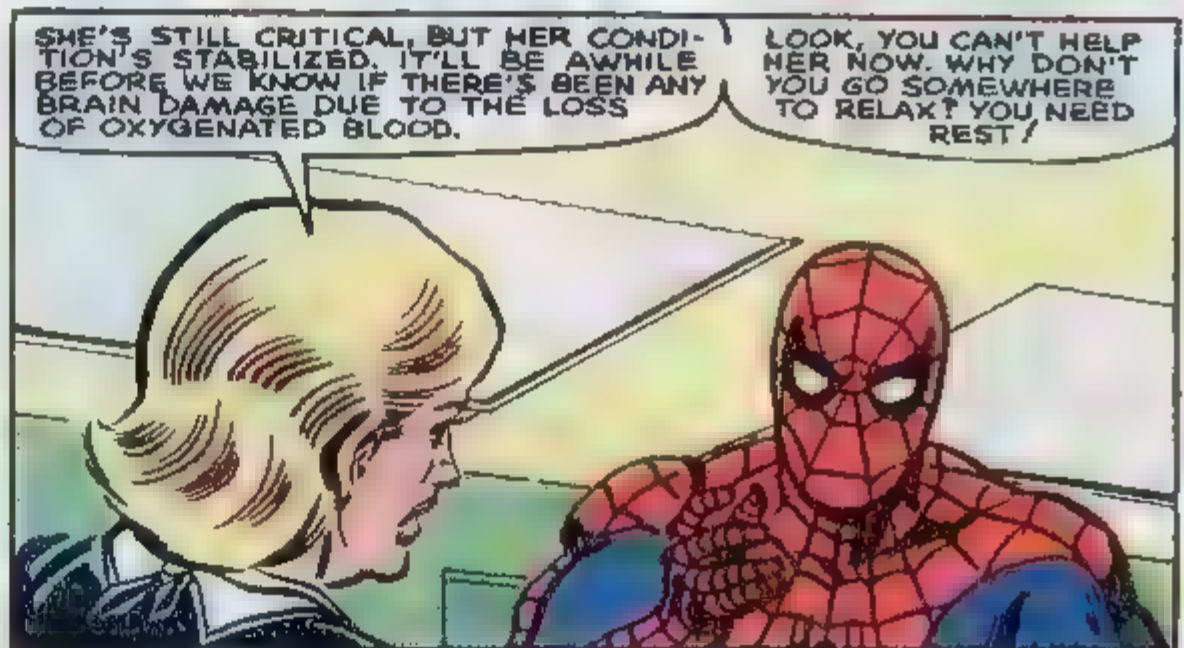
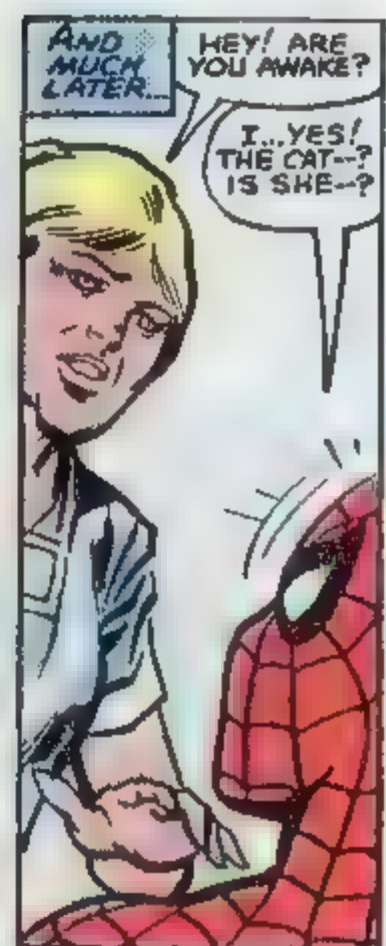
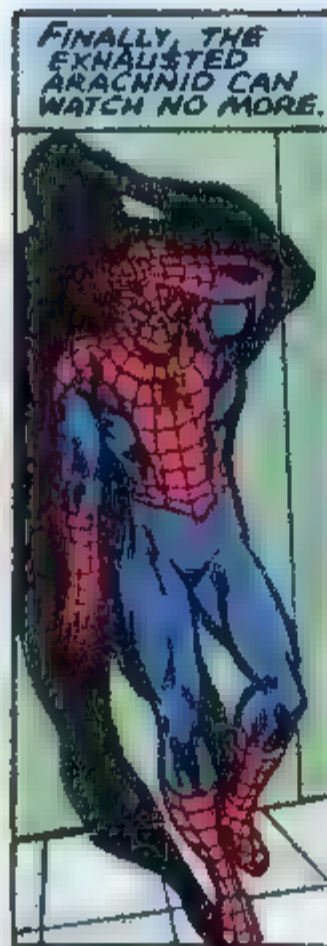




THEN, MOMENTS LATER, WITHOUT WAITING TO DON SCRUB-SUITS THE TRAUMA TEAM GOES TO WORK...

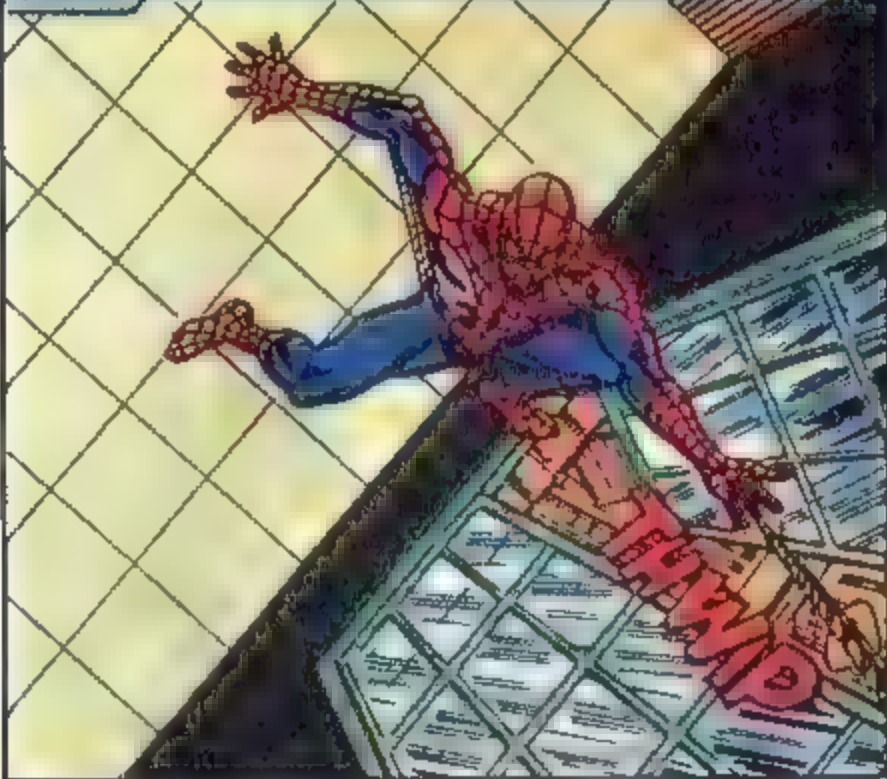




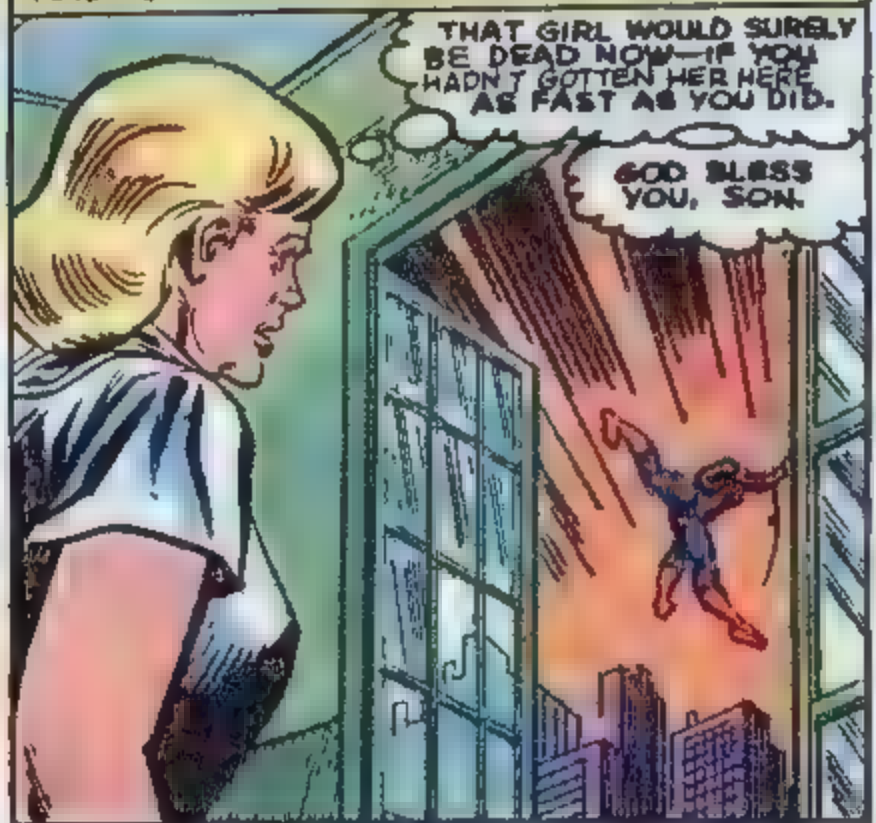




TAKING THE KINDLY NURSE'S ADVICE, SPIDER-MAN RELEASES AN IMPOSSIBLY SLENDER WEB-LINE...



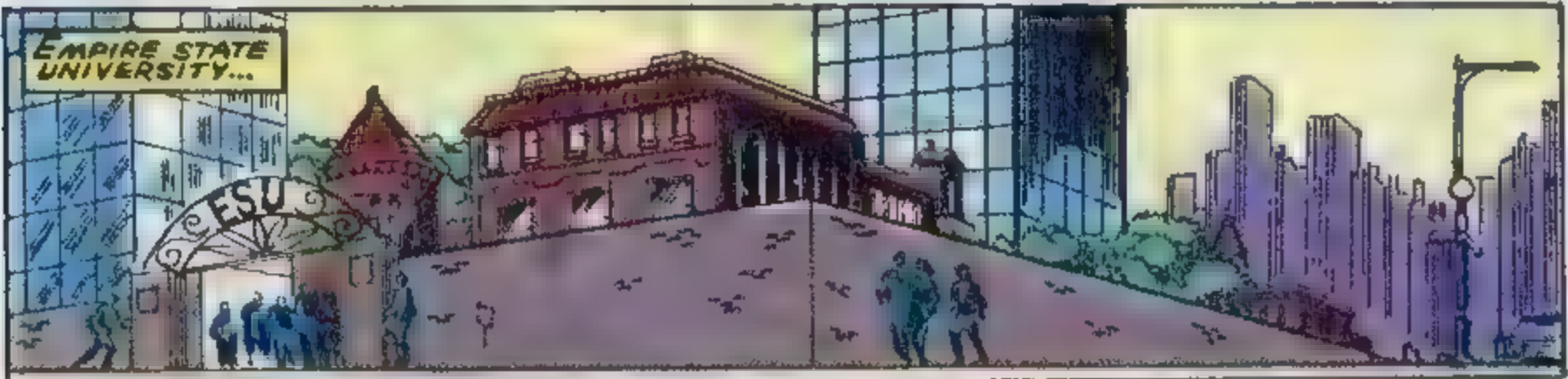
AND IS SOON SWINGING OFF TO FACE THE DAY...



THAT GIRL WOULD SURELY BE DEAD NOW—IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN HER HERE AS FAST AS YOU DID.

GOD BLESS YOU, SON.

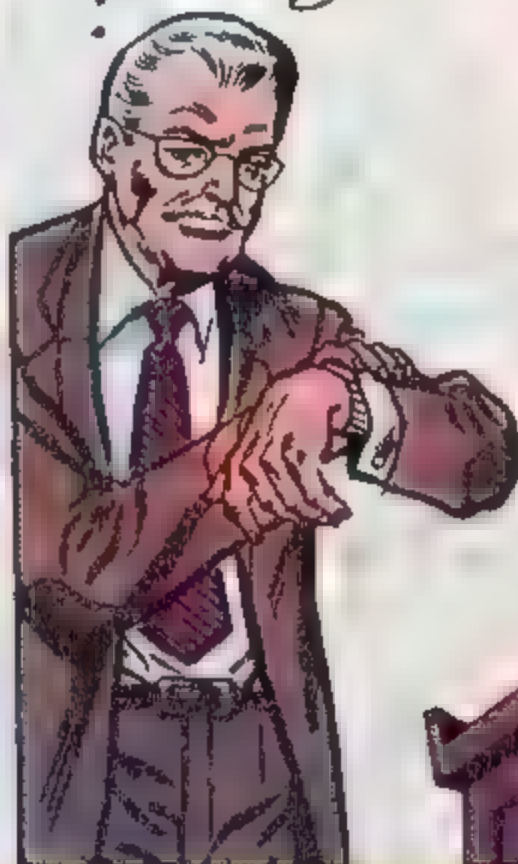
EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...



IN THE PHYSICS BUILDING, THE FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT CLASS IS ABOUT TO TAKE THEIR FINAL EXAMS...



PETER PARKER ISN'T HERE YET! MAYBE HE'S AFRAID TO COME!



FOR DR. MORRIS SLOAN, THIS IS A PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT. HE HAS WORKED LONG AND HARD TO DISCIPLINE PETER PARKER'S BRILLIANT, BUT ERRATIC, SCIENTIFIC MIND...

HE IS ON THE VERGE OF GIVING HIS PRIZE PUPIL UP FOR LOST, BUT THEN...

DR. SLOAN, I'M HERE!



DR. SLOAN BREATHES A SIGN OF RELIEF.

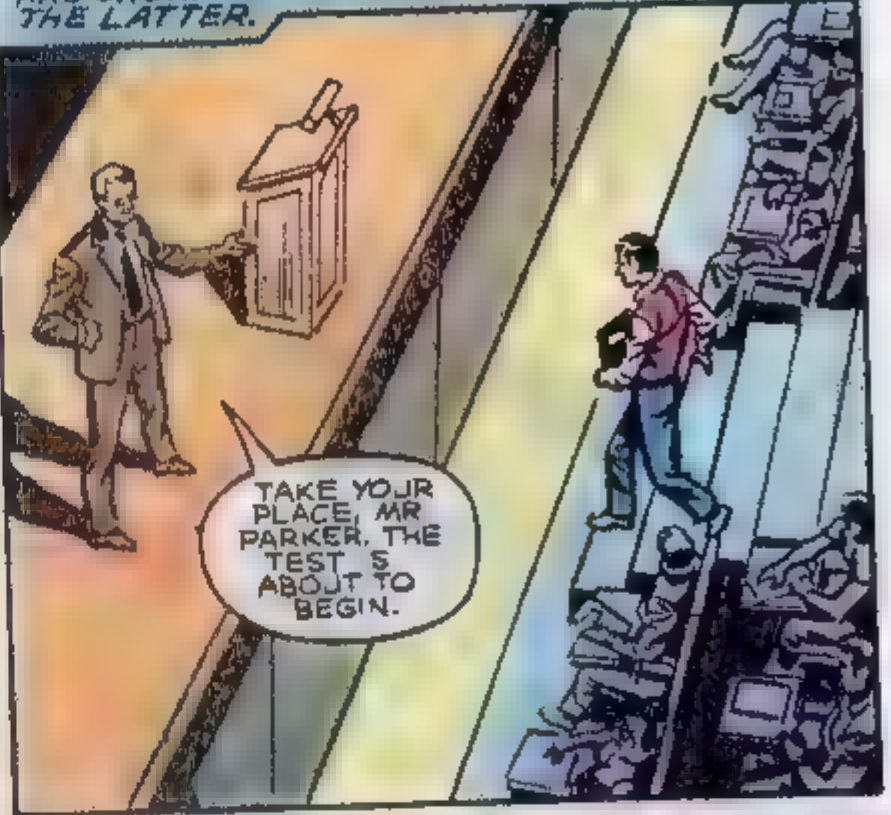


BUT HE DOES NOT LET HIS ADMIRATION FOR THIS YOUNG MAN SHOW. AS A SCIENCE, PHYSICS IS ONE-TENTH INSPIRATION... AND NINE-TENTHS DISCIPLINE.



SORRY I'M LATE!

BLESSED WITH THE FORMER, PETER PARKER HAS SHOWN AN APPALLING APATHY REGARDING THE LATTER.



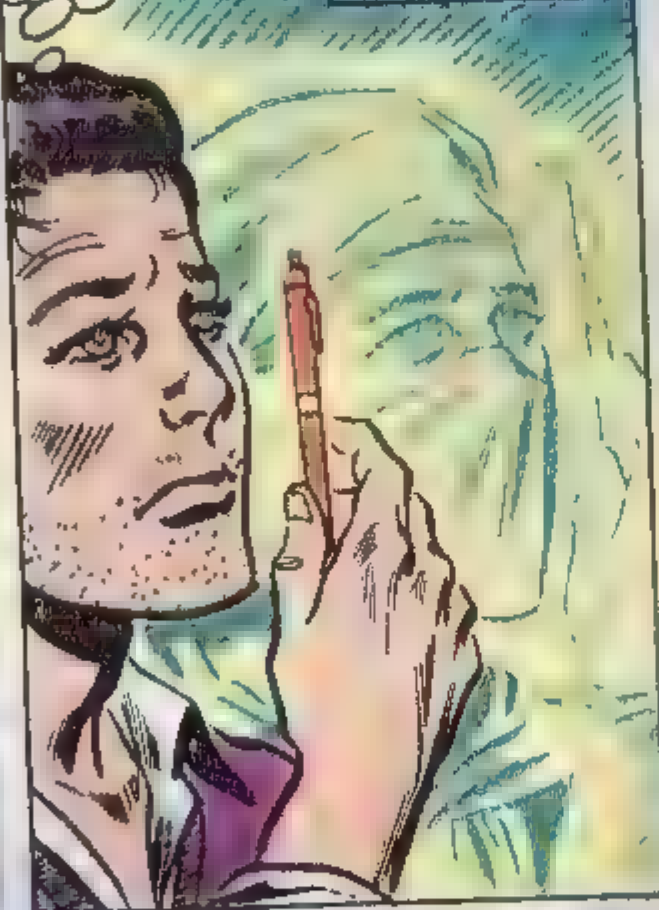
TAKE YOUR PLACE, MR PARKER. THE TEST'S ABOUT TO BEGIN.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS, ESSAYS, AND FORMULAE TO WORK OUT.

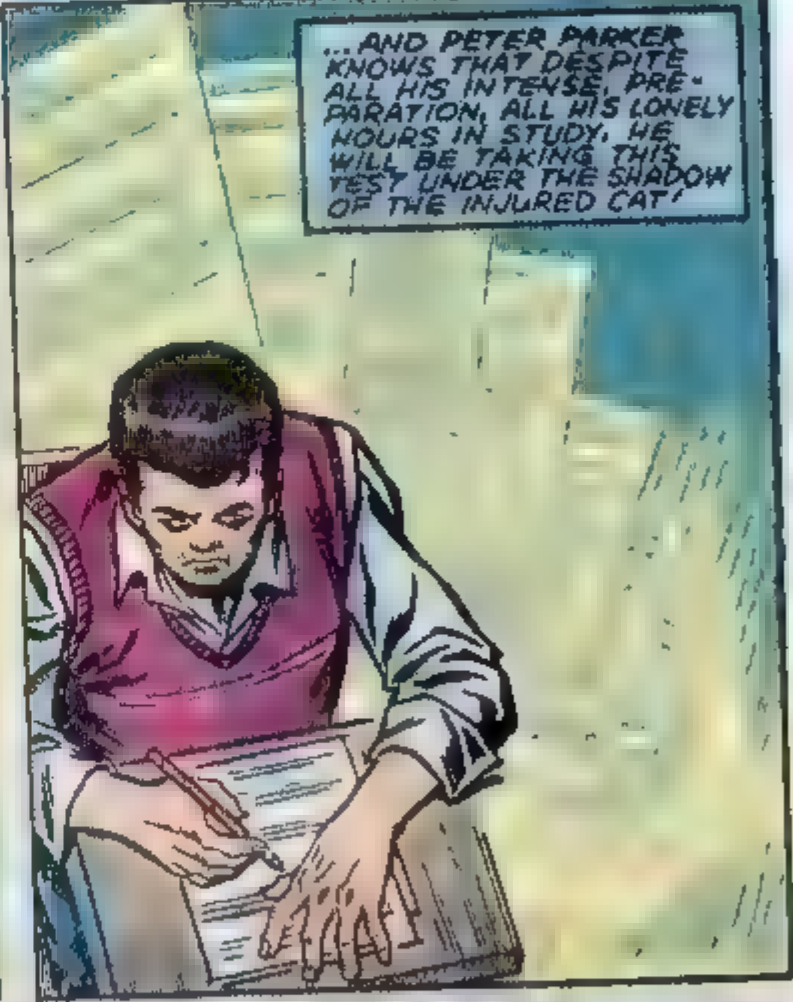


AM I READY?

ANOTHER IMAGE INTRUDES...

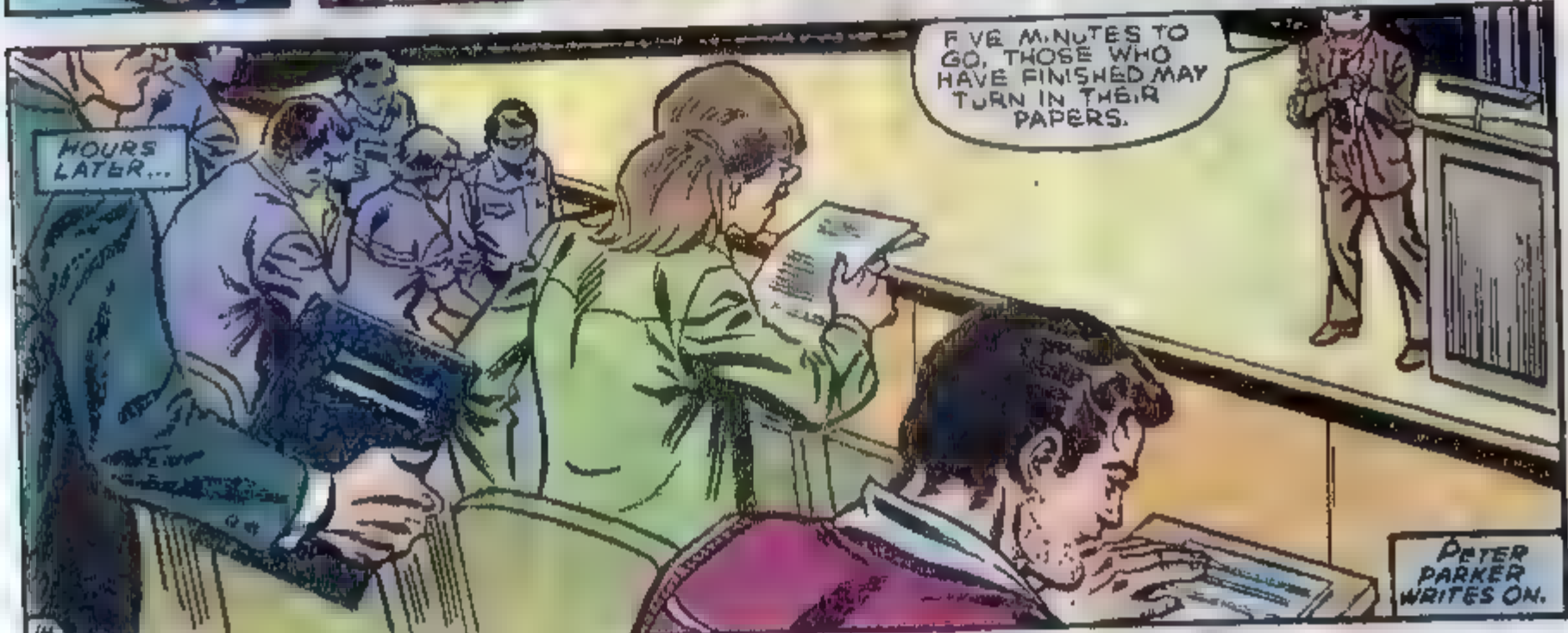


...AND PETER PARKER KNOWS THAT DESPITE ALL HIS INTENSE, PRE-PARATION, ALL HIS LONELY HOURS IN STUDY, HE WILL BE TAKING THIS TEST UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE INJURED CAT!



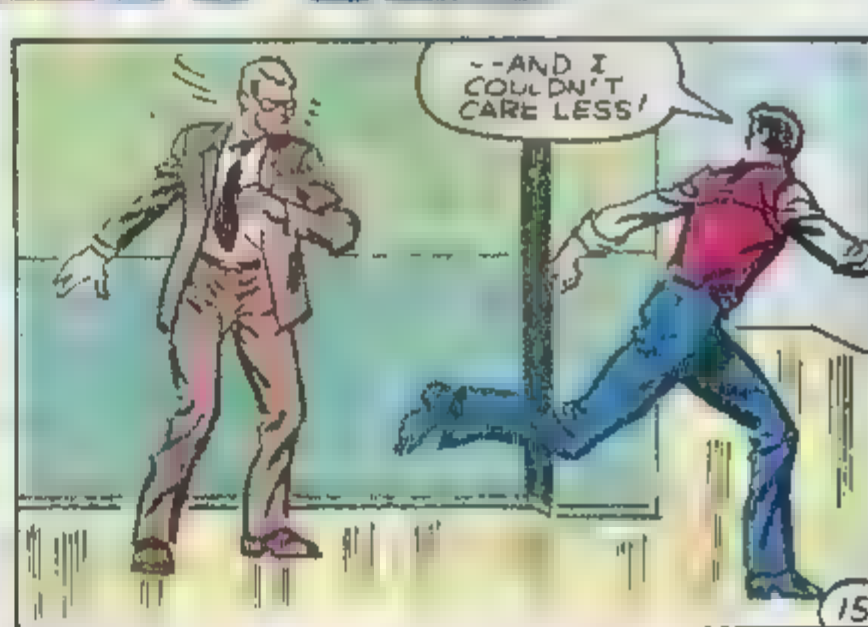
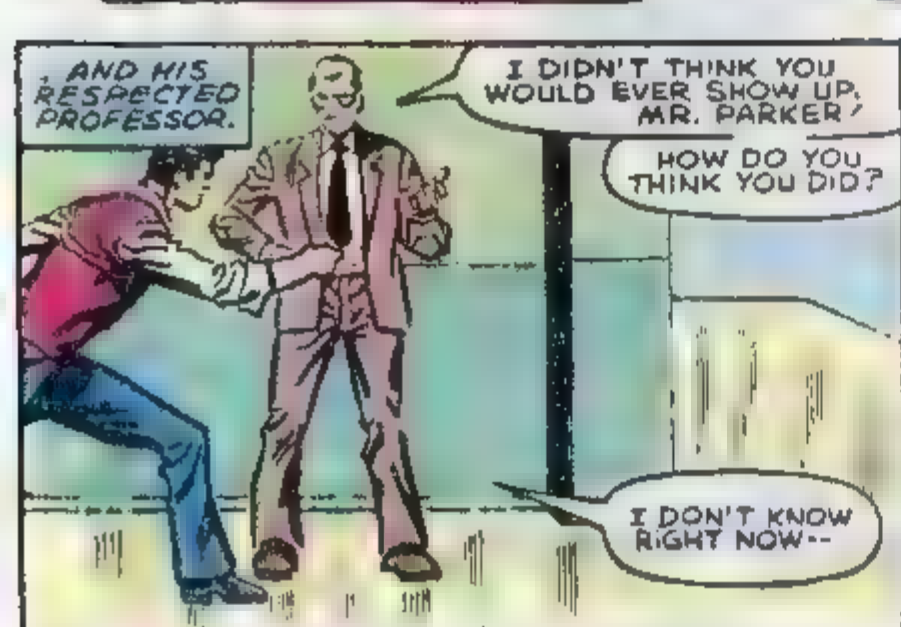
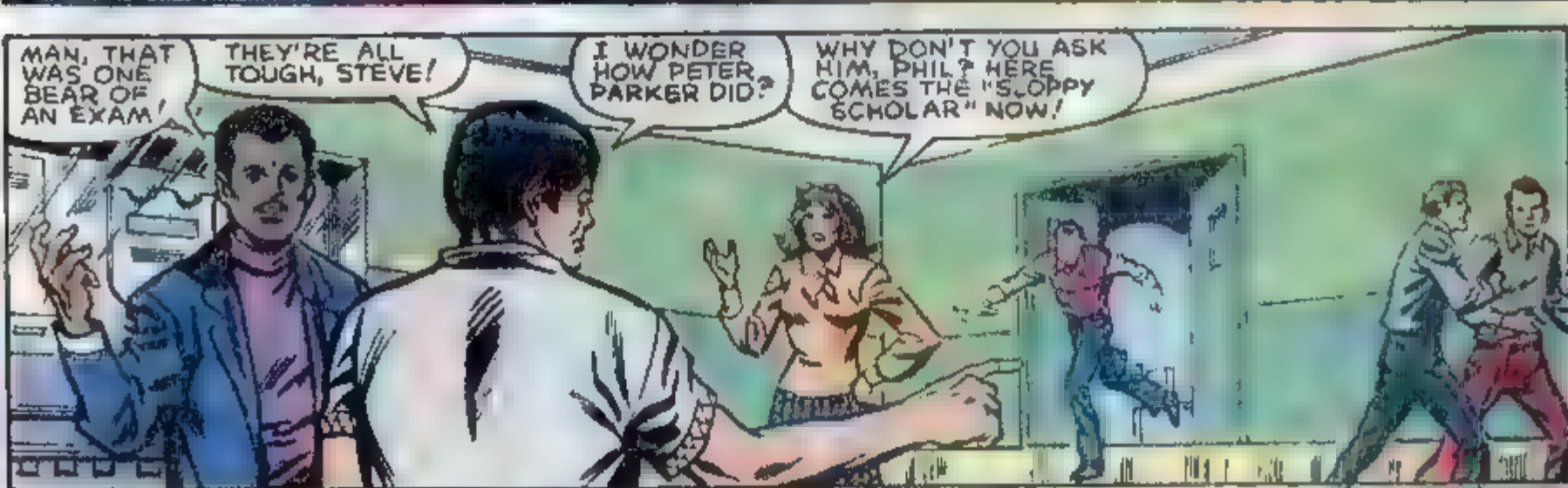
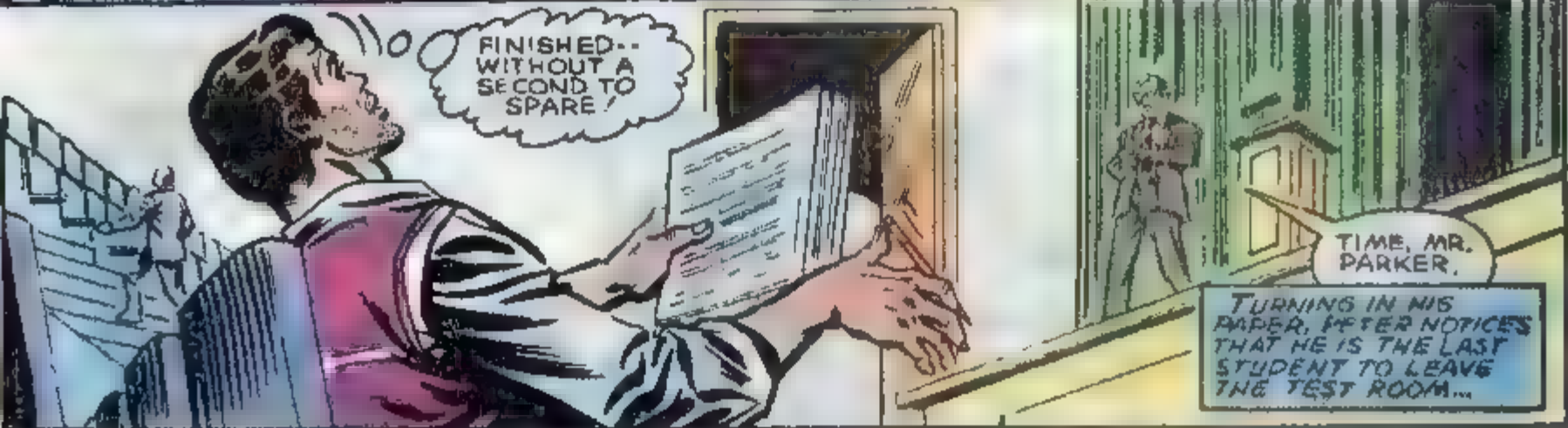
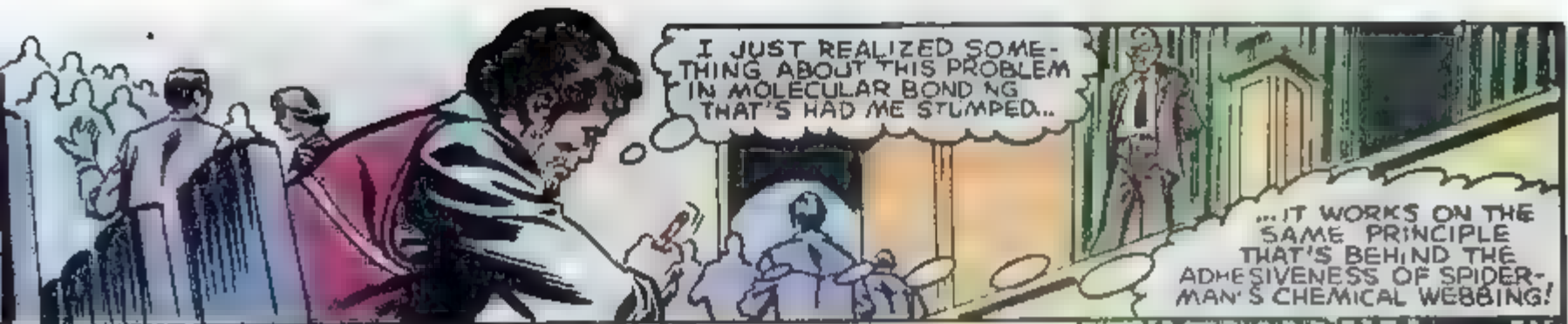
HOURS LATER...

FIVE MINUTES TO GO. THOSE WHO HAVE FINISHED MAY TURN IN THEIR PAPERS.



PETER PARKER WRITES ON.







PARKER HAS ONLY ONE CONCERN NOW, AND, HAVING FULFILLED HIS COMMITMENT TO HIS COLLEGE CAREER...

...HE SHOVES ALL OTHER INTERRUPTIONS ASIDE



AN AMBULANCE MARKED FOR COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN!

I HOPE THE DRIVER DOESN'T MIND IF I HITCH A RIDE!

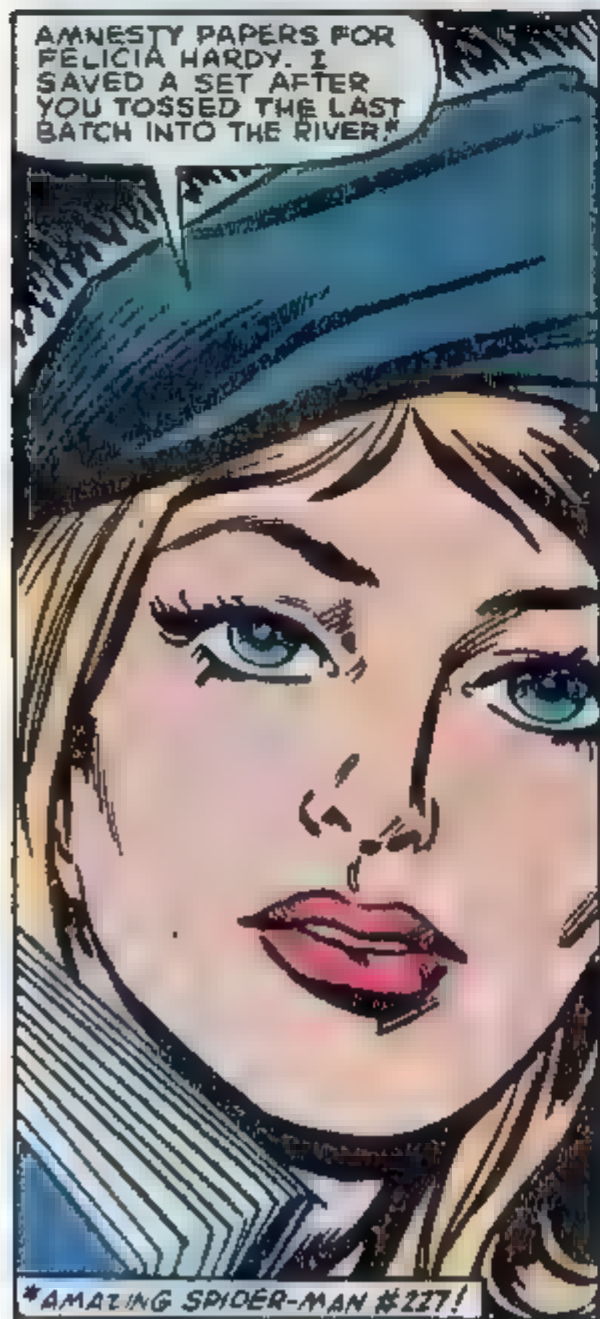
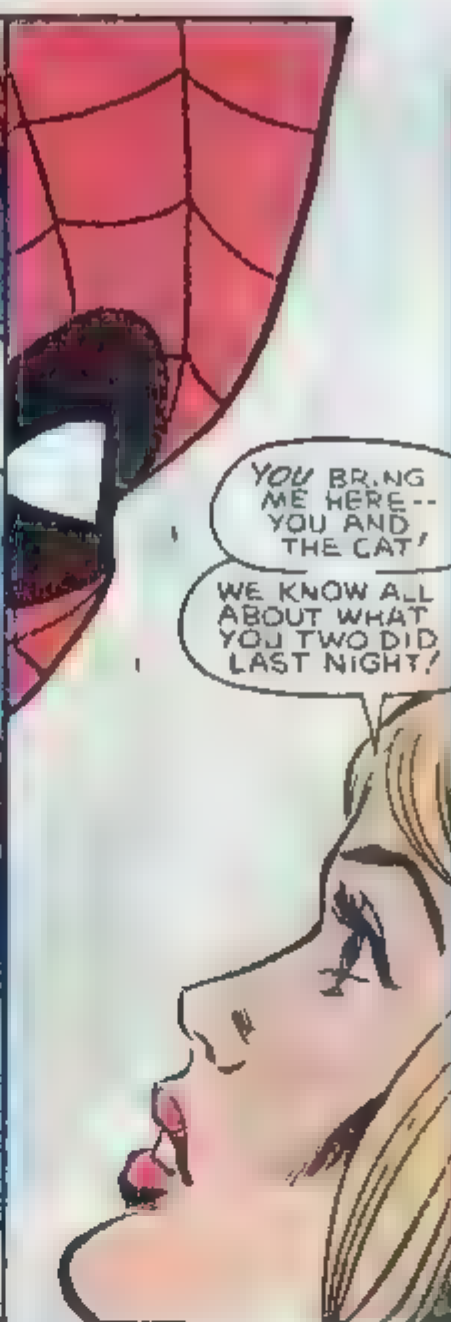
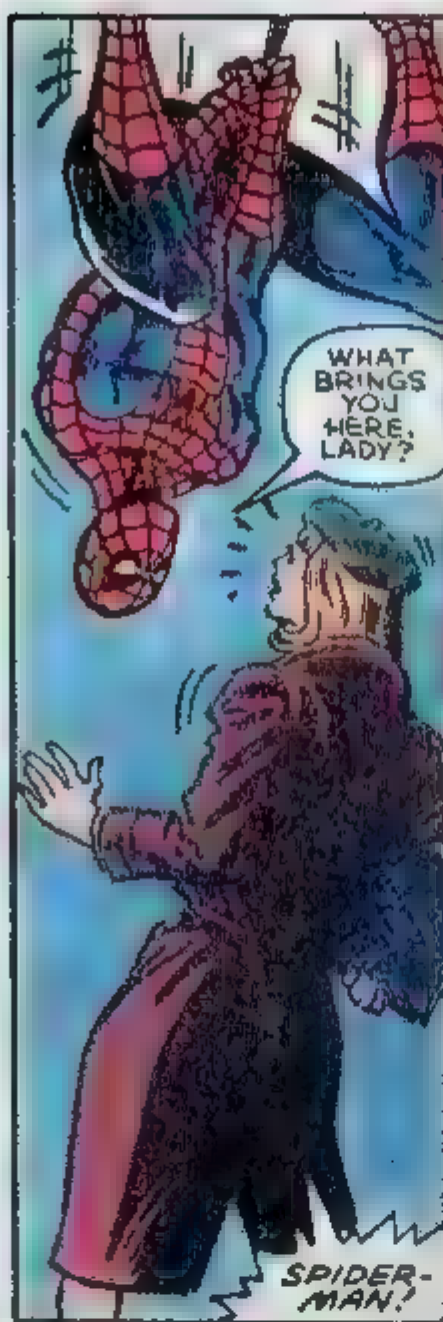
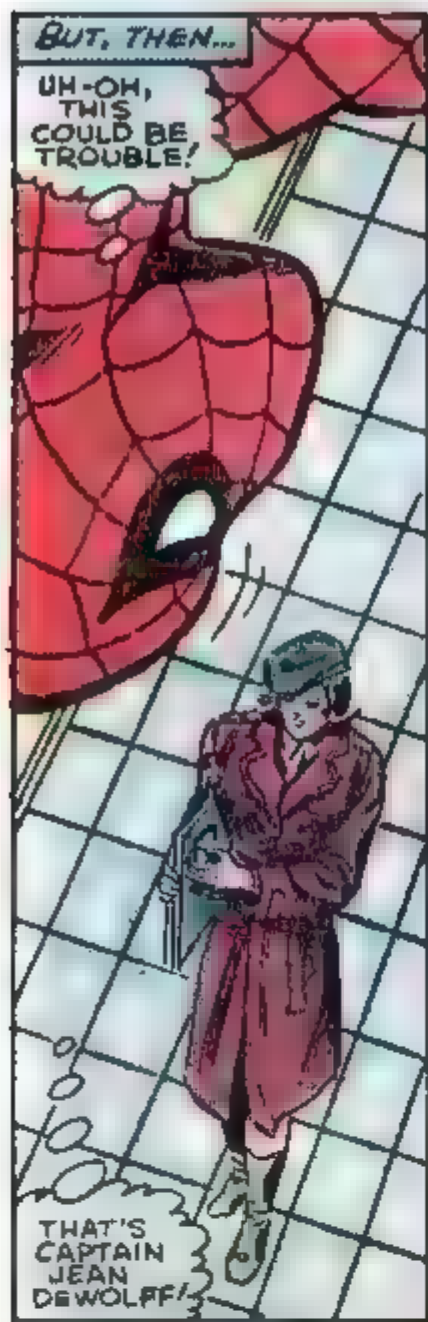
RACING THROUGH THE STREETS, THE AMBULANCE QUICKLY REACHES THE HOSPITAL, AND THEN

I'LL AVOID THE CONVENTIONAL ENTRANCE, AND TAKE AN EXPRESS UPSTAIRS.

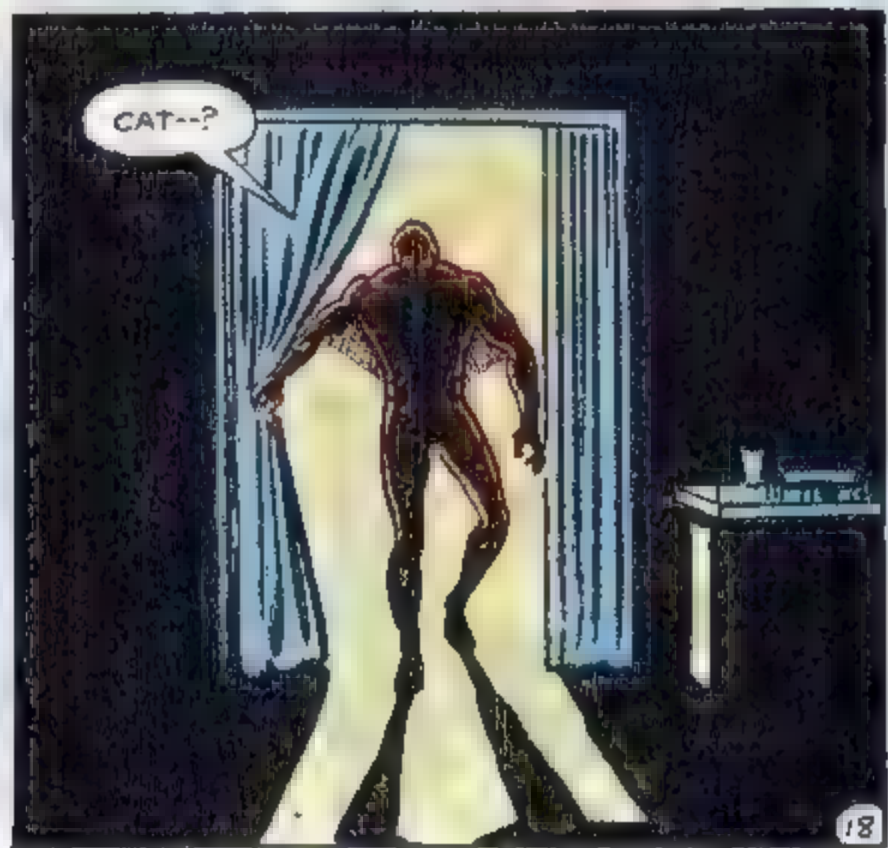
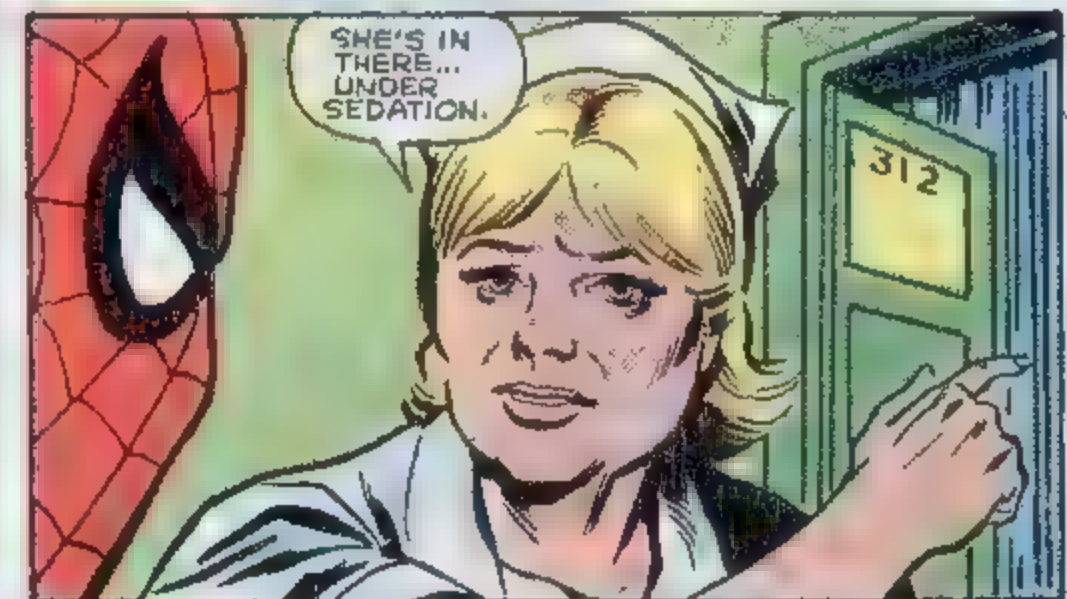
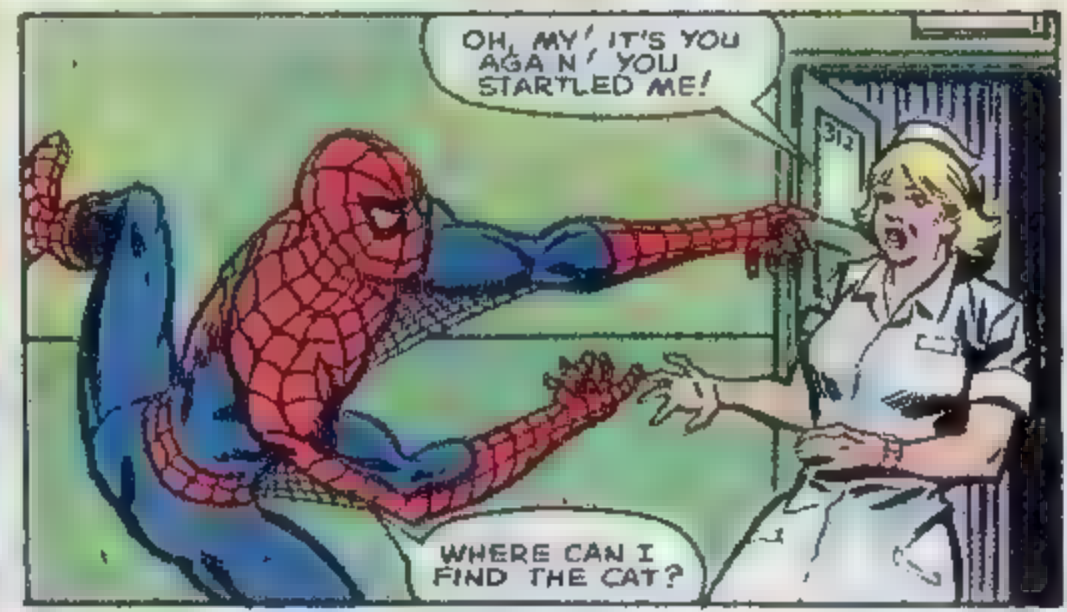
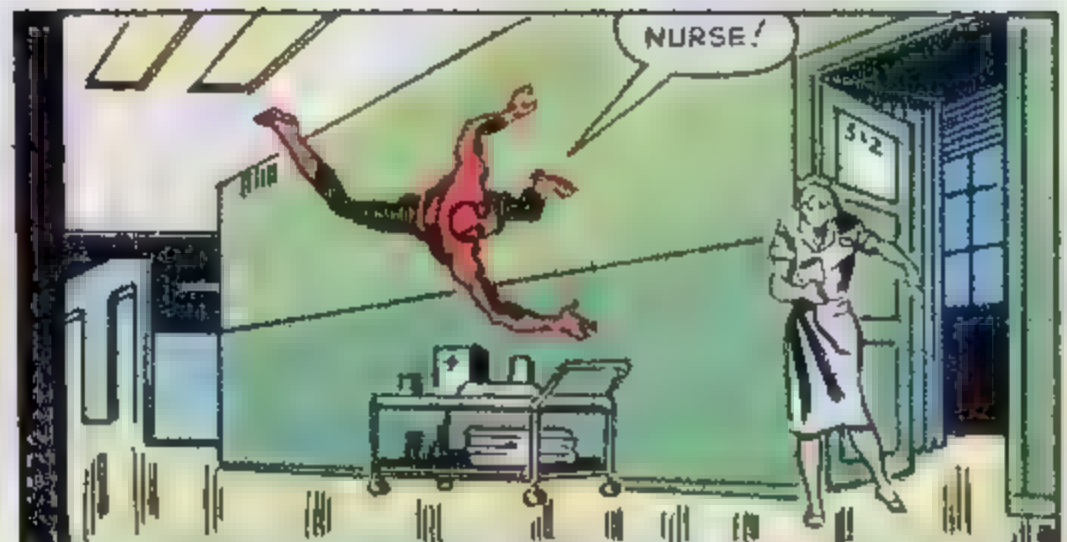
UNAWARE OF HIS PRESENCE, THOSE WITHIN THE HOSPITAL GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS...

I LAST SAW THE CAT ON THIS FLOOR!











ALONE IN THE DARKENED  
ROOM SHE LIES LIKE A  
STRICKEN ANGEL.

CAT-?

FELICIA--?

I-I GUESS  
HER  
SEDATIVE  
REALLY  
PUT HER  
OUT.

SH-SHE CAN'T HEAR  
ME NOW--CAN'T HEAR  
ME TELL HER HOW  
LOVELY SHE LOOKS...

CAN'T HEAR ME  
SAY HOW SORRY  
I AM THAT I  
COULDN'T KEEP THIS  
FROM HAPPENING  
TO HER!

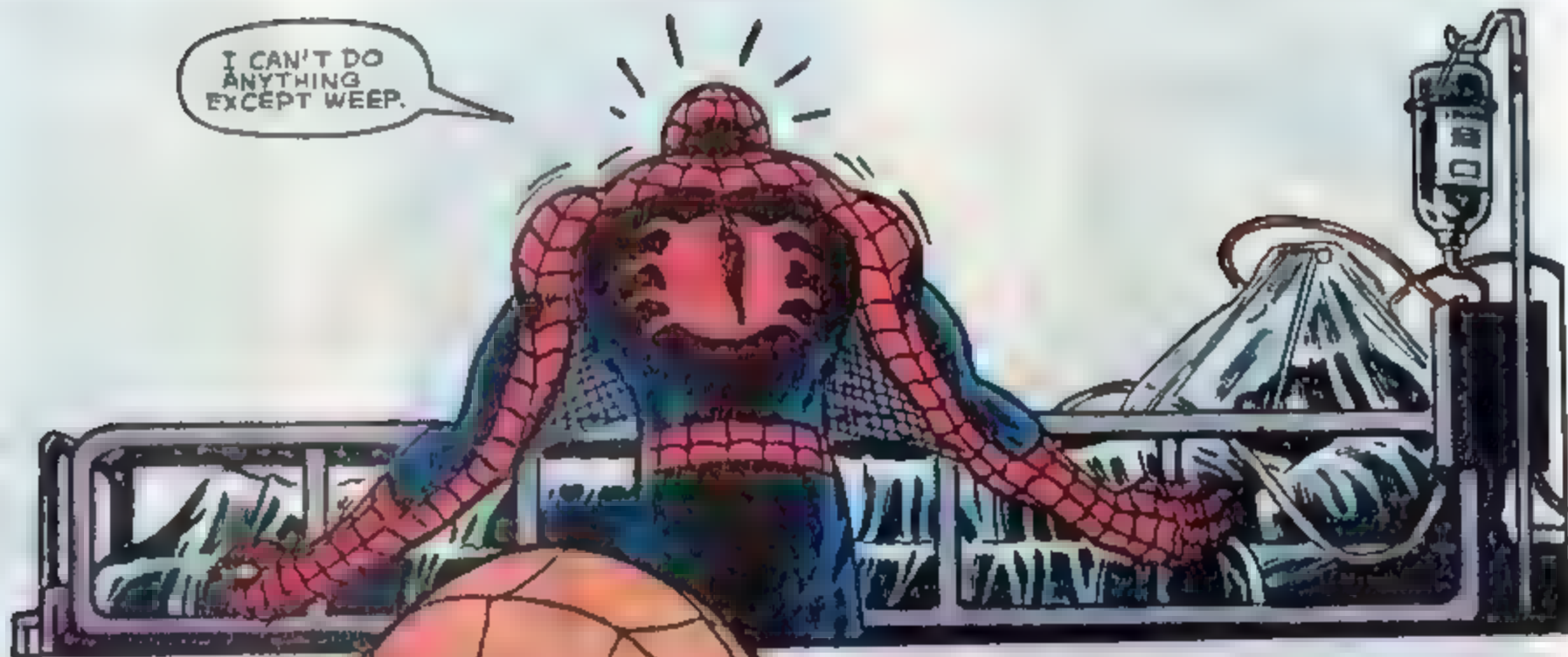
ALL MY POWER COULDN'T  
SAVE HER THE PROPOR-  
TIONATE STRENGTH OF  
A SHE-R MAYBE MADE  
TO COMAND. BUT WHEN  
IT COMES TO HELPING  
THOSE I LOVE

PEOPLE LIKE  
MY UNCLE BEN,  
AND FELICIA!!!

I GUESS I'M  
USELESS!



I CAN'T DO  
ANYTHING  
EXCEPT WEEP.



HOW LONG DOES  
HE CRY? A  
MINUTE? AN HOUR?

MINGLED WITH  
HIS TEARS  
ARE FORMLESS  
PRAYERS.

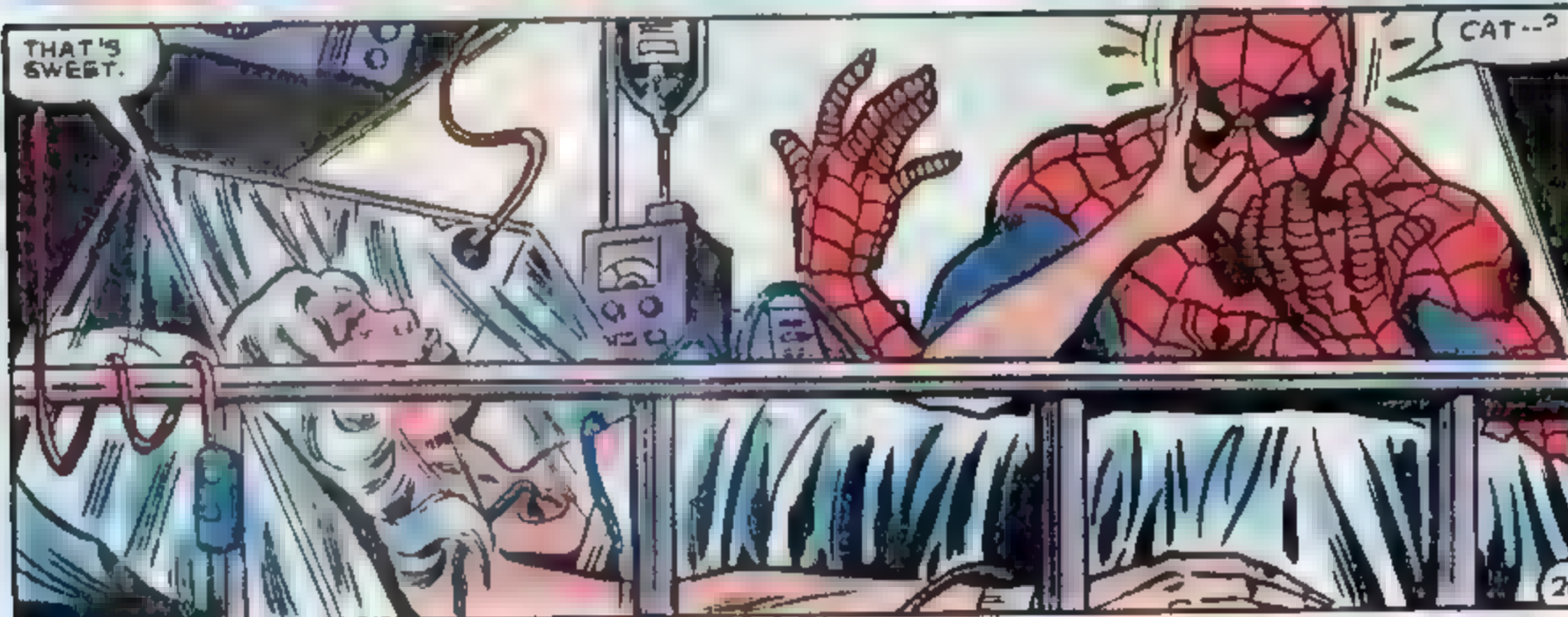


ARE THOSE ..  
TEARS FOR  
ME... LOVER?



THAT'S  
SWEET.

CAT...?





Dear Tom,

In its 69 issue run, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN has experienced few issues that could be considered superior to PPTSS #69. Both the script and the artistry fairly leaped off the page with excitement, drama and emotion. Bill Mantlo's powerfully conceived plot was complemented and augmented by the superb rendering of Ed Hannigan and Al Milgrom. CLOAK & DAGGER have certainly captured my interest and attention — comparing and contrasting them with Spider-Man serves to enhance the meaning of their actions and to define their characters. The personal reflections, the violent action, the realistic dialogue, the internal questioning, the straining emotions and the overall atmosphere of vital urgency swept this reader headlong into an involving and compelling adventure. Now that CLOAK & DAGGER have crossed that thin line between vigilantism and murder (at least that's the way it seemed to me), their future appearances should be real hum-dingers!

Wallace Lee Hopkins  
Box 428  
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

**They will be!**

Dear Spectacular People,

There are a few questions I'd like to ask about Cloak & Dagger. For one thing, they are supposed to be two runaway kids, yet they look and act like adults in PPTSS #69. Also, they were presumably strangers when they gained their powers, yet they seem to operate with the same unity as the Fantastic Four. Being the ever thoughtful Marvelite which I am, I've naturally come up with some logical explanations.

(1) The chemicals which gave them their respective powers also speeded up their aging process. This just might be a fitting way to end their careers early, should you decide to do so.

(2) Their extreme unity can be explained by the fact that they suffered through the awful trauma of mutation together, just as the Fantastic Four did. I think that's a stronger bond than any of us could ever know.

Peter Dubovsky  
P.O. Box 934  
Escanaba, MI 49829

**Peter, I would guess that your second explanation is closer to the truth!**

Dear Tom:

Concerning Peter Parker, The Spectacular Spider-Man #69...

Thank you for a most refreshing issue, particularly the return of Cloak & Dagger. However, I would like to draw your attention to a little subplot that has been building for the past couple of issues. Namely, the discovery by one Debra Whitman of Peter Parker's secret identity. It will be interesting to see what happens between these two individuals, but I am extremely concerned for the young lady's life.

I have noticed a disturbing pattern in the life of young Peter. It seems that when anyone either falls in love with him or discovers the truth about his alter ego, something drastic occurs to that person. Something usually along the line of death, brain damage, and other minor diseases. Such was the case with Gwen Stacy, Captain Stacy,

Madam Web, Norman Osborn (this one may be justified), The Black Cat (she still has seven lives), and that creep, Carrion (that guy was sick). By both loving Peter and knowing his secret, Debra Whitman has signed her own death warrant. However...

Although this and other patterns have been discovered in the Marvel universe, there are godlike beings which can change them. Beings more powerful than the Earth deities, more powerful than Galactus, more powerful than the Celestials, even more powerful than Eternity himself. Who could these Gods be?

They're called writers, artists, editors and the pantheon chief, the Editor-in-Chief. Therefore, I now submit a prayer of request and suggestion:

**PLEASE DON'T KILL DEBRA WHITMAN! SHE DOESN'T DESERVE IT!**

1. You could have Debra get along with Peter as good friends with Peter knowing that Debra knows (it would be different, but not damaging.)

2. You could have Debra keep silent and protect Peter's identity when he gets in a tight spot.

3. They could become lovers (Peter can't be a loser forever.)

4. Debra could have amnesia, or have her memory wiped in some way.

5. Other.

I realize that I am of no significance to you when it comes to making such a decision, but I thought that you should know that somewhere out there, is someone who doesn't want to see another death on Peter's head. Thank you for your time.

Tom Piddock  
2850 Delk Rd. Apt. 1-f  
Marietta, GA 30067

**On the contrary, Tom, the opinions of our readers are very significant to us. We hope you approved of what happened to Debra Whitman in issue #74.**

Dear Tom,

Please cast my vote for Cloak & Dagger getting their own mag!

The whole concept, the potential for development, the possibilities stagger the mind!

They are one exciting team — please treat them well.

James Atchison  
1030 Atlantic #310  
St. Paul, MN 55106

**We will, James! In fact, they'll soon be appearing in their very own four issue mini-series! Watch for it!**

Tom:

It felt like an eternity (or two) between the first appearance of Cloak & Dagger and their long-awaited return to the pages of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN in issue #69. However, they are back, and for that I thank you.

I believe these two quasi-heroes (for that is what they really are) are the most original creations Marvel has come out with since Dazzler, and maybe even before that! I must admit I was rather sad to see the demise of Silvermane, but that's life (or, in this case, death).

However, I certainly hope Cloak & Dagger are not about to follow in Silvermane's footsteps. In WHAT IF #34, there was a re-

view of four upcoming issues from four different titles, with SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN being one of them. To make a long story short, on that cover, our two new young heroes look somewhat the worse for wear after what appears to have been a battle with a deadly-looking cyborg-character. The question "Is this the end of Cloak and Dagger?" can also be seen.

C'mon, you guys. Don't scare me like that. You've got something good here. I hope you haven't messed it all up!

Conrad P. Felber  
P.O. Box 2347  
Cochrane, Ontario  
Canada, P0L 1C0

**You be the judge, Conrad. Have we—?**

Hi, guys!

I really enjoyed SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #70, especially since all the Spider-Man titles now seem to be meshing (finally!)

From the clues dropped this issue, I have a pretty good idea what shackles bind Cloak & Dagger. Each is bound to his/her own element — Cloak to darkness, Dagger to light — as well as each being symbiotically bound to the other. That is, they need to be together in order to give each other strength; Cloak strengthens Dagger in darkness, she supports him in light. Apparently they have to be close to do this. How close? Fodder for future issues, I suppose. Now what would happen if Cloak & Dagger were teamed-up with, or pitted against, Dazzler or the Shroud?

Vincent Burch  
2424 E. Denny Way  
Seattle, WA 98122

Hmmm...

Dear Tom,

I just wanted to drop you a line letting you know how much I've enjoyed the fine work you've been doing on your SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN covers lately. Instead of the same old tired layouts, your cover art has, of late, been exploring new horizons in design. You've attracted this reader's attention. I hope you continue to do so.

The best so far have been the covers of PPTSS #66, starring Electro, and PPTSS #69 with Cloak & Dagger. Both possessed the unique perspective of portraying the action as if the page were on an angle to the reader, and the use of the neon light backdrop on #66 to convey cover copy was most original. PPTSS #68 was also nice, as the action taking place was really a reflection in the RoboMaster's eye-lens. And, most recently, PPTSS #70's cover — with the logo hidden behind Spider-Man's eye-lits, and the mask ripped away to reveal the art — was innovative and interesting as well.

In this age of all-too-substandard comic fare, it's nice to see some originality expressed in cover art. All I can say is thank you to Messrs. Hannigan and Milgrom... and keep up the good work!

Bob Lackey  
25 Wanamaker Avenue  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

**Go easy on the praise, Bob... or you'll have both of those guys asking for another raise!**

**See you next month!**

Tom DeFalco









FELICIA?! Y-YOU'RE  
OKAY? YOU'RE GOING  
TO BE ALL RIGHT?

SURE, I-IT ONLY  
HURTS... WHEN I...  
LAUGH... SPIDEY!

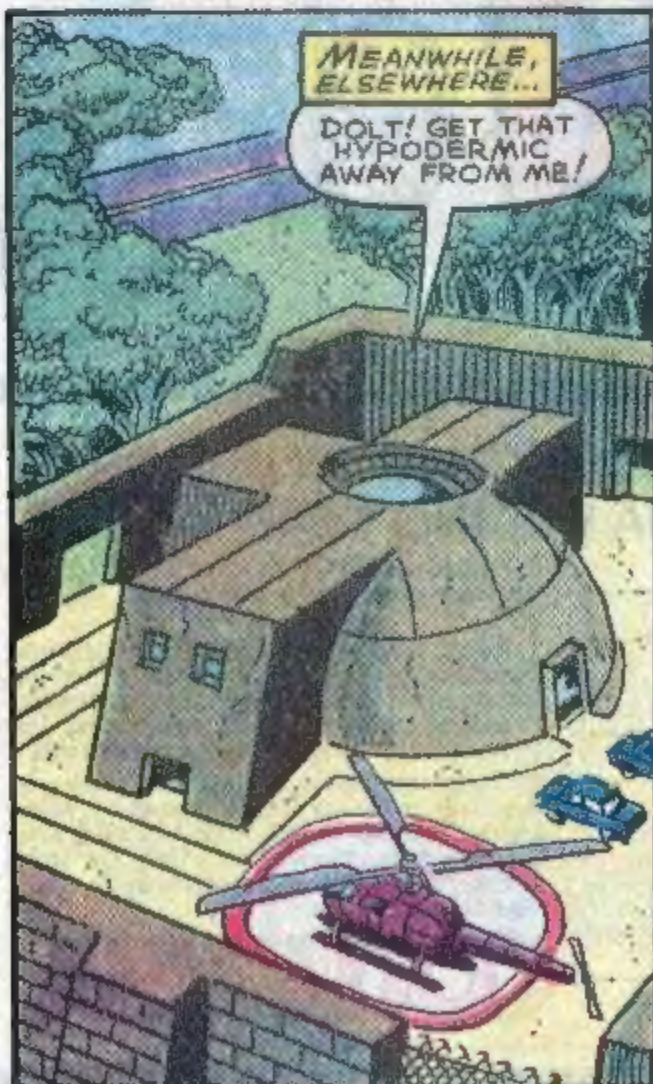
SO DON'T  
TICKLE  
ME... FOR  
AWHILE--  
OKAY?

WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING  
WHY, SPIDER-MAN  
BEGINS TO LAUGH...

...AND  
CRY...

...AND SHOUT  
HIS GRATITUDE  
TO THE SKIES.

THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!



MEANWHILE,  
ELSEWHERE...

DOLT! GET THAT  
HYPODERMIC  
AWAY FROM ME!



I MUST INSIST, DOCTOR! REATTACH-  
ING YOUR MECHANICAL LIMBS WOULD  
BE SO MUCH LESS PAINFUL IF  
YOU'D ONLY LET US...



NO! I DON'T WANT  
TO BE SEDATED!  
I WANT TO FEEL  
THE PAIN!

I WANT TO KNOW HOW THAT  
ACCURSED SPIDER-MAN--

--AND HIS BELOVED BLACK  
CAT ARE GOING TO FEEL--

--WHEN DOCTOR OTTO  
OCTAVIUS TEARS THEM--

...LIMB FROM  
LIMB.

NO MORE MISTER NICE GUY!